

CITY OF GREEN BAY

PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN



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CITY OF GREEN BAY PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN

2014 - 2019



Presented By:
The Green Bay Park Committee

Compiled By:
The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Insert Resolution Adopting Plan

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CHAPTER 1 - PURPOSE

A. OVERVIEW

Over the past few decades the trend in American society has been toward an increase in leisure time and the need for recreation and open space has been acknowledged as a prerequisite to good mental and physical health. Park development can also be an effective way to preserve, protect, and enhance environmentally significant areas for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future generations.

The preparation of this park, recreation, and open space plan is an important step toward achieving a park system that meets the recreational and environmental needs of the Green Bay community. A mission statement, along with goals and objectives, have been developed as guidelines to be used in formulating plans for facility development and acquisition needs.

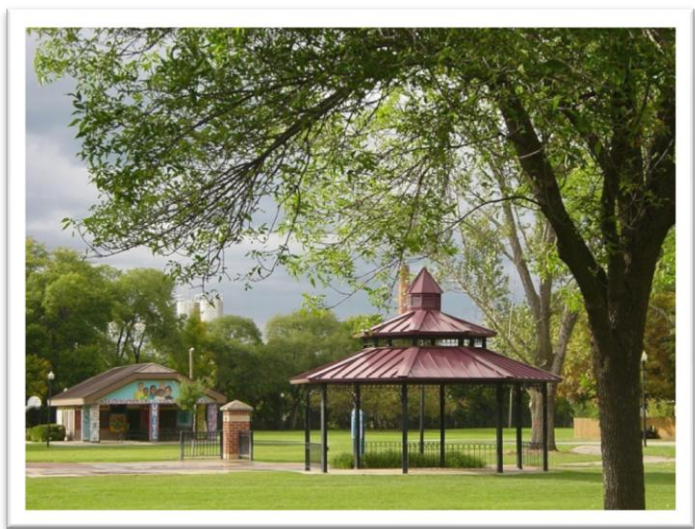
The inventory section of the plan outlines the existing park areas. A set of general guidelines is identified in the Needs Assessment Chapter in an effort to provide a means for analyzing Green Bay's park system. The Action Plan chapter contains recommendations for the next five years. These recommendations pertain to general development strategies, parkland expansion, acquisition and specific facility development recommendations. The implementation chapter contains general strategies for fulfilling the recommendations set forth by the plan.

This plan is the result of a joint effort between the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and the Planning Department. Subsequent review and approval of the plan by the Park Committee and City Council, along with approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, will continue the City of Green Bay's eligibility for financial assistance through state and federal funding programs.

B. AMENDING THE PLAN

The plan recommendations and action plan will be reviewed on a regular basis. Amendments to the plan will be reviewed and adopted by the Park Committee and the Green Bay Common Council. The entire plan will be updated, no less than every five years, to assure that the plan reflects changes in the leisure time and recreational needs of the community.

This plan has been coordinated with the Green Bay Smart Growth 2022, various Brown County planning documents, the plans of neighboring communities, as well as other major recreation providers in the community such as the Green Bay School District and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. This plan also takes into account the recommendations of various City of Green Bay master plan documents.



C. OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES

The following plans provide relevant information along with suggested goals and objectives that will be considered in determining the future needs of the City of Green Bay Park system.

2011-2016 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan - The 2011-2016 SCORP looks at the current recreation assets within the state along with emerging trends in recreation. Through various methods of analysis the plan provides a list of common goals so the collective entities involved in the planning and implementation of outdoor recreation within the state can work together to achieve similar defined goals. In this latest SCORP, visions and suggested actions of the *Americas Great Outdoors Initiative* (AGO), developed in 2010, outline the recommendations and goals of the state plan to meet future recreation needs.

The AGO seeks to reconnect Americans to outdoor recreation by ensuring the availability of quality outdoor recreation through conservation and restoration of open spaces, most notably through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The AGO also seeks to foster more effective partnerships between federal, state, local and tribal governments, as well as various non-governmental partners. The SCORP likewise promotes methods for merging state and federal goals with local initiatives.

In analyzing recreation trends and needs, the SCORP highlights the trend of rural population decline as people continue to leave rural areas and move into or adjacent to urbanized centers of the state. This places additional demand on these urban centers to provide and promote adequate recreation opportunities, which in turn provides a greater quality of life and level of public health and wellness for residents. It is important to note that one of the AGO goals is *to establish a greater system of urban parks and community green spaces and to focus funding in this target area*.

The SCORP provides an analysis of population demographics and recreation trends (utilizing the 2005-2009 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment) leading to a projection in the types of activities that will see growth, maintain a stable demand or experience decreasing demand. In addition the SCORP divides recreation activities into five groupings around various unique settings for recreational activities. One of these settings, Developed Land, has more direct implications for the City of Green Bay, especially in light of population migration trends. The plan's findings indicate walking for pleasure had the highest level of participation per the number people participating in these developed land areas. Other high scoring activities in the developed land setting are bicycling and running/jogging which would suggest the importance of trails in the urban setting.

The SCORP also analyzes recreation growth trends in Wisconsin by looking at the change in participation rates over a five-year period in two ways. One way is by looking at the actual difference in the total number of people participating; the second way is by looking at the percentage of change in the number of people participating. Soccer had the greatest participation growth in total numbers and was second in percentage growth over the five-year period, suggesting an additional need for soccer facilities.

Brown County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan - The Brown County Park and Outdoor Recreation Plan 2008-2013 serves as a document to plan for the current and future park and recreation needs of Brown County. While the County sites are largely nature-based and located in less densely populated areas outside of the Green Bay metro area, there are many system-wide goals that impact the recreation experience for the City of Green Bay.

Perhaps most relevant are the recommendations for the many shared use recreation trails in the immediate area. The Brown County plan makes recommendations for connecting the East River Trail in the Town of Ledgeview to the Fox River Trail in De Pere, connecting the Mountain Bay State Trail in Howard to the recently-constructed West Side Trail on the west side of Green Bay, connecting the Devil's

River State Trail east of Green Bay to the East River and Fox River Trails in Green Bay and extending the Baird Creek Greenway Trail east to the Towns of Green Bay and Humboldt and eventually to Kewaunee County. There are also recommendations to develop new trail facilities such as trail head parking and restrooms. If implemented, these recommendations will increase trail recreation opportunities and greatly improve the interconnectivity of communities and park facilities and will take a significant level of intergovernmental cooperation to accomplish.

Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update – The Brown County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update was completed in April of 2011 and is an update of the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan revised the current recommended projects along with recommending new projects with new design ideas. It accomplished this with a primary goal of providing appropriately-spaced continuous bicycle and pedestrian corridors throughout the county, utilizing the 4E Approach (Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Encouraging Use) that was the foundation of the 2008 plan and the WisDOT Wisconsin Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.

The plan provides an overview of existing urban and rural facilities and makes recommendations for improvements by municipality. It also provides an overview of programs, funding sources and design standards.

City of Green Bay Smart Growth Plan 2022 – The Green Bay Smart Growth 2022 Plan was adopted in April 2003 and consists of two volumes. Volume I provides an analysis and background of current conditions and past plans, as well as opportunities and constraints that need to be addressed in various planning areas. It ends with a hybrid conceptual plan that forms the basis for policy plan elements in Volume II. Volume II includes objectives, policies maps and implementation actions in 12 subject areas such as land use, natural resources, transportation, parks, greenways and parkways and intergovernmental cooperation. The plan provides a long-term strategy for the City and provides guidance for short-term decisions about a variety of subjects. The plan was developed with significant public involvement including a 30-member advisory committee, community open houses, presentations to civic groups, a public opinion survey, an urban design survey, an internet web page and newsletters mailed to all Green Bay households, among other methods.

While all subject areas of the plan are relevant, the Natural Resources and Parks, Greenways and Parkways sections are of particular significance. Based on an analysis of conditions and issues, several objectives were defined which include: park acquisition, new park development, existing park and greenway improvements, improving and expanding linear parks, interconnecting parkways, enhancing residential neighborhoods and commercial districts with parks, protecting environmentally-sensitive areas, refining park facilities and recreation programs to meet changing needs and providing appropriate access to park facilities. The plan also recommends that the City work cooperatively with other units of government, landowners and recreation providers to enhance availability of outdoor recreation and reduce costs through shared use of facilities. The plan goes on to make specific recommendations for individual parks, trails and facilities, many of which have been completed since the plan was completed. The plan should be consulted for general guidance utilizing updated information.

City of Green Bay Downtown Master Plan – The Downtown Master Plan (AuthentiCity), to be adopted in the spring of 2014, lays out a 10- to 15-year strategy for guiding land use and growth in coordination with transportation improvements and other public investments. This plan focuses on the Downtown main business district east of the Fox River, as well as the Broadway commercial and retail district on the near west side of the river. Priorities include targeted development areas, shoreline enhancements and a major redevelopment site in the downtown core, including a public square. Plan recommendations include enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity with on-street facilities and multi-use trails, public and private green space and the use of public art will further develop the sense of place in the downtown area. Additional recommendations include: improved streetscapes, wayfinding signage, parking

coordination, and transit facilities, along with stronger historic preservation and architectural design review measures.

The plan was developed with a citizen steering committee along with stakeholder interviews, online surveys and a series of open house presentations geared toward the general public.

Bay Beach Amusement Park Master Plan – The Bay Beach Amusement Park Master Plan was originally written in 2008 and was updated in 2013. The master plan was developed utilizing a series of design workshops with various stakeholders and input from Parks Department staff. The plan was developed to guide the expansion and improvement of the park while preserving the family-oriented classic amusement park atmosphere. The plan made recommendations for parking, pedestrian circulation, ride additions, pavilion renovations, new attractions, utilization of green space and ways to integrate the Bay of Green Bay shoreline into the park. The updated plan makes priority recommendations to guide the development of the amusement park over the next ten years.

Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan –The Baird Creek Greenway is a unique natural area of approximately 500 acres within a growing and highly-urbanized area. The Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan, completed in November 2006, was developed through a public process involving City of Green Bay staff, project stakeholders and citizens. The plan will assist the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation and the City with the preservation and expansion of this unique asset while guiding public use. The plan looks at appropriate levels of recreational use and public access, designating levels of trail development, identifying unique natural features for protection, preservation, restoration and educational opportunities, strategies for stormwater management and interfacing with adjacent development.

D. MISSION STATEMENT

We endeavor to enrich the quality of life of all people by creatively providing and enhancing leisure opportunities and green space.

E. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this plan is to provide and maintain a diversified park and recreation system that addresses the recreational needs of Green Bay's citizens and visitors of all ages and abilities while also preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural resources of the community.

Premise - We believe that the free and creative use of leisure time and open space is fundamental to the vitality and joy of human life and is critical to the health and well being of our citizens and our community.

1. Provide year-round high quality organized neighborhood and community-based recreation programs and facilities in sufficient number and variety to meet the needs of the community.
2. Provide easily-accessible parks and playgrounds within convenient walking distance from all residential neighborhoods.
3. Provide parks and recreation facilities, which are designed to compliment the characteristics of the surrounding service neighborhood.
4. Provide and maintain parks with recreation facilities to accommodate residents of all ages and physical abilities.
5. Promote recreational development and preservation of natural areas along the waterfront areas within the City.

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6. Protect and enhance environmentally significant areas.
 7. Provide an appropriate level of maintenance for all park areas.
 8. Provide for all of these objectives in a fiscally-prudent manner.
 9. Increase opportunities for water-based recreation.
 10. Develop an interconnected system of off-road multi-use paths to connect communities and destinations and provide alternative means of transportation.
 11. Pursue grant opportunities to implement priority recommendations.
 12. Provide a high quality urban forest within all parks, greenways and public right-of-ways.

CHAPTER 2 - COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. AREA SETTING

The City of Green Bay is located in central Brown County on the shores of the Bay of Green Bay at the mouth of the Fox River. The City is located 581' above sea level and has a land mass of 46.15 square miles (29,534 acres). It is currently the third most populated city in Wisconsin and had a 2010 population of 104,057. Surrounded by smaller urbanizing communities, Green Bay is part of the largest urban area in the northern half of the state, with a metro area population of 306,241. It was traditionally settled by large numbers of Belgian, German, Scandinavian, Dutch and Irish. **Map 1** depicts the location of Green Bay in Brown County and its location relative to surrounding communities.

Green Bay's strategic location at the southern end of the bay provides a commercial gateway to the Great Lakes chain. It is the oldest European settlement in Wisconsin, having been settled by the French after Jean Nicolet established a trading post in the area in 1634. Historically rich in natural resources, the Green Bay area transitioned from fur trading to the processing and shipping of resources, including lumber, and eventually became a major producer of paper products. Today, Green Bay is a significant industrial and commercial center. In addition to paper, other major industries include health care and medical services, insurance, food processing, packaging and shipping.

The City sits at the bottom of the Door Peninsula, an area of unique natural, cultural and recreational resources and is also a gateway to the "North Woods" of upper Wisconsin. Green Bay is located 132 miles northeast of Madison, 112 miles north of Milwaukee and 270 miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

B. GEOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

In addition to the Bay itself, other water resources include the Fox River, a major economical and recreational asset to the City, the East River and several creeks including Baird, Duck, Willow, Mahon and Beaver Dam Creeks. Some of these waterways have linear greenways and/or natural resource areas along them. One of the largest intact resource areas is the Baird Creek Greenway which provides a linear corridor with wooded areas of varied topography, pockets of wetlands and remnant native plant communities. Lands along the East River contain broad floodplains that were preserved as open space and are utilized for various recreational assets. Most pre-settlement wetlands in the City have been filled including several hundred acres along the bay, but small pockets of remnant wetlands remain throughout.

The Niagara Escarpment that skirts the eastern edge of the City and underlies Door County is a several hundred miles long ridge of dolomitic limestone that was influential in the creation of landforms during the last glacial period, including the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Winnebago. Most of Green Bay is a fairly level, glacial till plain with moderately well-drained to poorly drained soils and clayey subsoils well-suited to agriculture, but not always well-suited to urban development. Many undeveloped areas around the City typically have poorly-drained soils. However, northwestern areas of the City contain deeper, well-drained soils with sandy to loamy sub-soils.

The more varied topography of the areas along the eastern edge and to the southeast of Green Bay is associated with the escarpment. The many quarries in these areas that provide natural building stone and gravel products capitalize on the presence of this hard limestone. In general the landscapes

associated with this landform are rich in natural, cultural and historic resources and contain unique natural environments of plants and wildlife.

The City has a significant urban forest cover associated with its many greenways, natural resource areas, parks, railroad corridors and various open spaces. In addition, the City has a well-established forestry program that provides well-maintained street trees and tree canopy in various public green spaces.

The presence of floodways and wetlands, soil type, drainage potential, topography and habitat quality are all factors influencing development potential and quality of development of lands. These factors should be considered when choosing appropriate lands for park creation or expansion and resource protection.

C. CLIMATE

Green Bay has a humid continental climate with warm, humid summers and long, cold, snowy winters and no dry season. Daily high temperatures don't often exceed 89°F and low temperatures rarely fall below -10°F. The average annual high temperature is 53.5°F and the average annual low temperature is 34.8°F. Green Bay's warmest month is July with an average daytime high temperature of 81° F and average daily low of 58°F. The coldest month is January with an average minimum temperature of 9°F and average maximum temperature of 24°F.

The shortest day (daylight hours) occurs on December 21 with 8:41 hours of daylight; the longest day is June 20 with 15:34 hours of daylight.

Green Bay has an average annual precipitation rate of 29.53" (which corresponds to 51" of snow for the cold months). The driest month is February with an average precipitation rate of 1.1"; the wettest month is June with an average precipitation rate of 3.9".

Source: Wisconsin State Climatology Office (NOAA National Climate Data Center 1971-2000 and U.S. Climate Data 1981-2010; Austin-Straubel Airport Weather Station)



D. LAND USE

The land use pattern of the City is a classic example of historical development in a watercourse-oriented city. Green Bay originated and flourished because the Bay and the Fox River provided trading opportunities and access to other commercial centers. Most industrial development has occurred along both banks of the Fox River. Commercial development is situated in a dominant central business district southeast of the industrial district on the east side of the river. There is also a small, prominent commercial district just west of the Fox River and several major commercial strip developments located along major arterial streets throughout the City. A significant land use feature within the City of Green Bay is the large amount of agricultural and open land lying within the City limits. It amounts to over 10% of the total City area and is located primarily near the eastern City limits. However, this area is under pressure from expanding residential development. See **Table 1** for the approximate acres of various land use types in 2000.

TABLE 1 - LAND USE DISTRIBUTION, 2000

<u>LAND USE CATEGORY</u>	<u>AREA IN ACRES</u>
Single Family Residential	6,566
Two Family	734
Multi-Family	609
Group Quarters	49
Mobile Home	28
Commercial	1,290
Industrial	1,986
Right-of-Way	3,951
Railroad Related	334
Transportation Related	523
Communication/Utilities	727
Institutional/Governmental	1,695
Outdoor Recreation	3,090
Agriculture/Silviculture	3,242
Open Space	720
Natural Areas	2,218
Water	650
Vacant	1,122
<i>Total</i>	29,534

Note: Land Use Distribution for the year 2010 as reported by Brown County had not been verified as of the approval and printing of this document.

E. TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

The City of Green Bay has an excellent system of state, county and local highways. An overall highway network provides a combination of major arterial highways for travel to other areas of the state and county and a local street system for intra-City travel.

Currently, Green Bay is served by one interstate, two United States highways, and four state highways.

- A. I-43 connects Green Bay to Milwaukee.
- B. U.S. 41 links Green Bay with Marinette and Upper Michigan to the north and with Fox River Valley and Milwaukee to the south.
- C. U.S. 141 links Green Bay with Upper Michigan to the north and the Lake Michigan cities and Milwaukee to the south.
- D. S.T.H. 29 runs from Kewaunee through Green Bay and Wausau and west to the Minneapolis area.
- E. S.T.H. 54 runs from Algoma through Green Bay and central Wisconsin and west to Winona, Minnesota.
- F. S.T.H. 57 connects Door County with Green Bay, Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin.
- G. S.T.H. 32 traverses the entire state from northern Wisconsin through Green Bay and south to the Kenosha area.

The City of Green Bay transit system consists of 13 full service bus routes serving the metropolitan area as well as a number of limited service paratransit routes. Limited routes are provided on school days throughout the school year serving area middle schools and high schools and a partner program serves area colleges. The vast majority of existing City parks and schools along with some of the suburbs are

served by the City bus system. Some free routes are available on Packer game days. Metro system buses have been retrofitted to accommodate bicycles.

Rail service exists for freight only. Although there are currently no passenger trains servicing Green Bay, we are identified as a potential destination within the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. While these plans are a long way from becoming a reality, the City should consider how and where such a service could be provided.

The Fox River carries a large volume of both recreational and commercial vessels, connecting with Lake Michigan and the seaway. Due to its strategic location as the western most port of Lake Michigan, the Port of Green Bay provides an important link between the Midwest and the rest of the country and is also served by major rail and national truck lines.

The City has made a strong commitment to improve the bicycle facilities in Green Bay. Some of the recent projects include:

- Paved shoulders on East Shore Drive between Nicolet Drive and East Shore Circle.
- Sharrow lanes painted on several downtown city streets.
- The Fox River State trail was recently installed from downtown Green Bay, south to the Brown County limits.
- The main multi-use trail along the East River has been developed over the past 10 years with planning and property acquisitions now underway to complete the final section. When completed, the trail will extend from the Fox River (where it will link with the Fox River Trail) east and south to the City limit and beyond to the Village of Ledgeview.
- The Baird Creek multi-use trail now extends from Joannes Park on the near east side where it connects to the East River Trail to a trail head just west of I-43. Future plans call for extending the trail east another mile to Christa McAuliffe Park.
- A 1.14-mile multi-use trail was recently constructed on the west side within an abandoned railroad corridor. Phase II construction of the trail from Military Avenue to Bond Street is planned for 2014. The hope is this trail will eventually connect to the Village of Howard and the State Mountain Bay Trail.
- A designated mountain bike trail network was recently completed in the Baird Creek Greenway.

Austin Straubel International Airport is the third largest airport in the State of Wisconsin. It is owned and operated by Brown County through a self-funded enterprise fund and provides commercial, air cargo and business operations, along with daily passenger service by four major airlines. The airport has about 30 scheduled arrivals daily and in 2010 enplaned approximately 365,000 passengers. The airport serves the region around Green Bay, extending from Manitowoc north into Upper Michigan to Iron Mountain.

F. POPULATION STATISTICS AND TRENDS

TOTAL POPULATION

The 2010 United States Census determined the City of Green Bay had a population of 104,057. This is an increase of 1.7% compared to the 2000 U.S. Census of 102,313 residents. This is a decrease in the growth rate compared to the period from 1990 to 2000 when the population grew by approximately 6%. In 1990 the City had a population of 96,644 residents.

The population of the City has been steadily increasing since 1930. Growth was greatest for the City prior to 1970, with increases ranging from 14% to almost 40% per decade. Population increases should continue in the foreseeable future. Projections prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Administration indicate that Green Bay's overall population is expected to grow by 2.2% between 2010 and 2020, reaching approximately 106,354 residents by the year 2020. A trend of a decreasing rate of growth is apparent in these projections.

The City of Green Bay's population as a share of the County's population has been decreasing. Since 1970 the City's share of the County's population has decreased from 55.5% to 42% in 2010. The estimate for 2013 puts the figure at 41.5%. As the City of Green Bay's population continues to increase at a slower rate than the County and its municipal borders become fixed, it is expected that the City's share of the overall County's population will continue to decrease, barring factors like those mentioned previously.

The population of the City of Green Bay as a share of the State population has remained relatively constant at approximately 2%.

MINORITY POPULATIONS

Over the past 40 years, the City of Green Bay has become much more racially and ethnically diverse. Between 1970 and 2010, Green Bay experienced a significant increase in all minority group populations. Over the past 20 years, certain group populations have increased significantly. The American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut population increased at a percentage of 37% in 1990 to 2000 and 26% in 2000 to 2010. The Black and Hispanic populations increased at much higher percentages of over 210% and 584% respectively in 1990 to 2000. Increases in the Black and Hispanic percentages of the population continued over the 2000 to 2010 period with rates of 162% for Blacks and 9% for Hispanics. The Asian/Pacific Islander population increased approximately 74% during 1990 to 2000 and 9.5% for Asians and 7.5% for Pacific Islanders over the 2000 to 2010 period.

It is important to note that while the overall minority group population comprised only 2.75% of the total population in 1980 and 14% in 2000, by 2010 the minority group populations made up 22% of the City's total population.

AGE OF POPULATION

The age distribution for the population of Green Bay is fairly evenly distributed, according to the 2010 Census. Gender distribution is nearly equal, with females comprising 50.6% and males 49.4%. The median age of Green Bay's residents is 33.7 years, with 24.7% under the age of 18, 11.7% of the population being 18-24 years of age, 27.7% between 25-44 years of age and 35.3% 45 or over.

There has not been a major change in the distribution of gender within the last four decades. However, the median age of residents has been increasing from 25.2 in 1970 to 33.7 in 2010. This appears to be mostly due to a decrease in the percentage of the population age 25-44 years, (from 31.7% in 2000 to 27.7% in 2010), and an increase in the population over 45 years of age (which increased from 31.3% in 2000 to 35.7% in 2010). The age distribution of Green Bay is very similar to that of Brown County. The County's median age is slightly older at 34.2.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND MAKEUP

The steady growth of population in Green Bay has been mirrored and actually surpassed by the growth of households. The rate of increase in both population and household numbers is expected to slow through 2020.

The 2010 census indicated there were 42,244 households in Green Bay with 31.4% of households having individuals less than 18 years of age living in them. 58.5% of all households were family households. Of these, 40.4% were married couples living together, 12.5% had a female householder with no husband present and 5.6% had a male householder with no wife present. This compares to 41,591 households with 29% having individuals under the age of 18 in 2000. In 2000 59.3% of all households were family households with 44.1% being married couples living together and 10.8% being female householders with no husband present.

In 2010 41.5% of households were non-family households compared to 40.7% in 2000. Of these, 32.4% were individuals living alone and 9.6% of these were individuals over the age of 65 living alone.

The increase in non-family household is also related to the decrease in average household size. The average household size has decreased by approximately 36%, from 3.27 persons per household in 1970 to 2.39 persons per household in 2010. In 2000 the average household size was 2.4.

Several trends are apparent with these numbers:

- A decrease in the percentage of family households and an increase in non-family households;
- A decrease in the percentage of married couple families;
- An increase in households with individuals under 18 years of age; and
- A decrease in average household size.

The changes in household make-up and family size over time also have an effect on the type of housing that is chosen or affordable by households. The proportion of owner-occupied units has decreased from 67% in 1970 to 56.3% in 2010, while renter-occupied units have increased from 33% in 1970 to 43.7% in 2010.

Transportation trends are also changing in Brown County and Green Bay. The number of households with no automobile or one automobile continues to decrease while the number of households with two or more showed dramatic increases. Between 1980 and 1990 there was a 55% increase in two auto households and a 156% increase for households with three or more vehicles. This trend continued into the 21st century.

In summary, the populations of Green Bay and Brown County are growing, getting older, and more urban. Households are getting smaller, more mobile and less apt to live in the traditional nuclear family or own a standard single-family home. All these factors will eventually have ramifications on the planning of outdoor recreation facilities and open spaces.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

For adults age 25 and older 14% had not received a high school degree, 64.7% had at least a high school diploma or GED equivalent but no college (four year) degree. Of this percentage, 9.4% had an associate degree. An additional 15.3% of adults 25 and older had earned a bachelor's degree, and an additional 6.1% had a graduate or professional degree.

Of persons working age (16) and older 68.4% were actively in the work force. Of those in the workforce 62.4% were employed and 5.9% were unemployed.

When considering incomes per household, 16.9% of all Green Bay residents lived below the poverty level (as did 12.6% of all families). Household incomes including benefits were distributed as shown in **Table 2**.

TABLE 2 - INCOME DISTRIBUTION

INCOME LEVEL	% OF HOUSEHOLDS
<10,000	8.0
10,000 – 24,999	20.0
25,000 – 49,999	29.9
50,000 – 74,999	19.6
75,000 – 99,999	10.3
100,000 – 199,999	10.1
>200,000	2.0
<i>Total</i>	99.9

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Communities Survey. Figures in 2012 dollars.

Individuals in the workforce worked in a variety of sectors of the economy as shown in **Table 3**. The employment per sector reflects a fairly diverse economy with a large percentage of workers engaged in manufacturing.

TABLE 3 – EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUP

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	% OF WORKFORCE
Education, Health and Social Services	19.8
Manufacturing	18.8
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodations and Food Service	12.5
Retail Trades	12.4
Professional, Scientific, Administrative, and Waste Management Services	7.3
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	6.7
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	6.3
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	4.1
Construction	4.0
Wholesale Trade	3.0
Public Administration	2.8
Information	1.5
Agriculture	.8
<i>Total</i>	100.0

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Communities Survey

Additional Chapter Resources

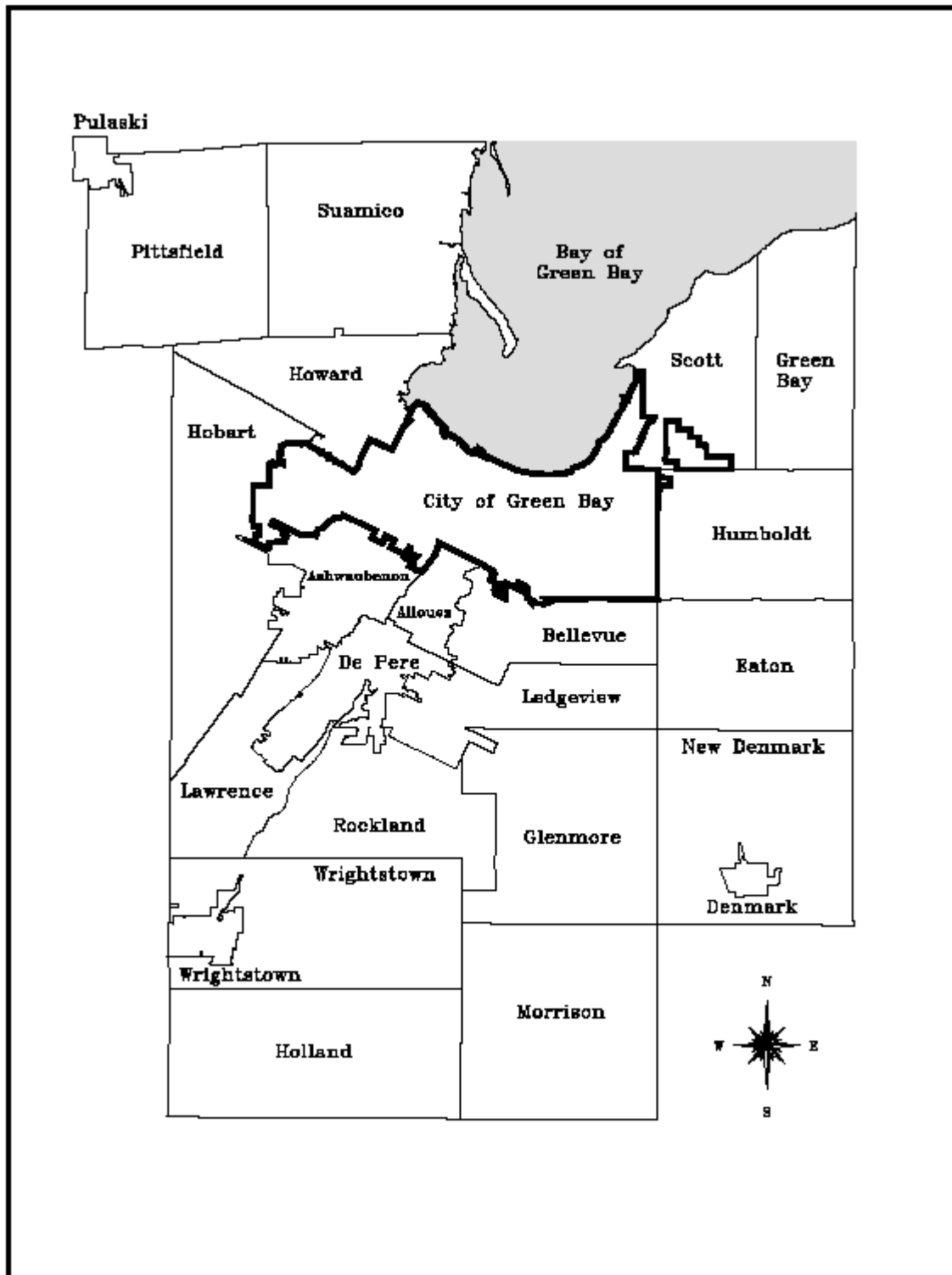
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source Wisconsin Department of Administration

Source: Green Bay Smart Growth 2022, May 2003

Source: Brown County Year 2020 Land Use and Transportation Plan, April 1996

MAP 1 - BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN



CHAPTER 3 – OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY

A. PARK INVENTORY OVERVIEW

A detailed inventory of park areas and activities is located in **Table 4**. This table identifies all open space areas by park classification and lists all the facilities available in each area. For more information regarding the park classification system see **Table 7**. This table identifies the various park categories, what types of activities typically take place in them and their recommended service radius.

B. PARK INVENTORY SUMMARY

There are a grand total of 2,608.95 acres of recreational open space in the City of Green Bay.

Of the total acreage, 66 parks and joint park/schools make up 1,632.78 acres, with the City owning 1,488.59 acres and the School District owning 144.19 acres. The 66 park areas consist of 3 mini-parks, 30 neighborhood parks, 15 park/schools, 6 community parks, 1 large urban park, 2 sports complexes and 9 special use parks. In addition, the City also owns 1 Natural Resource Area, 16 Greenways and 10 Urban Green Spaces consisting of 976.17 acres, with the City owning 853.45 acres and Brown County owning 122.72 acres within the Baird Creek Greenway.

Please note that only City-owned parkland is calculated in the total recreational open space acreage. Property owned by UWGB, NWTC or other School District property not adjacent to parkland was not included in this study. The City also owns Cooke Park, which is a 24.50-acre parcel located in the Village of Ashwaubenon, at the site of the National Railroad Museum. Due to the fact that this property is not located within the City of Green Bay, it is not included in the open space calculation.

See **Map 2** for a delineation of all the existing park and open space areas in the City.

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PARK OR FACILITY CLASSIFICATION AND SITES/LOCATION		TOTAL ACREAGE	CITY	SCHOOL	BALL FIELDS - PRACTICE	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE	BASKETBALL COURT	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	TENNIS COURTS	PICKLEBALL	POOLS / AQUATIC CENTERS	SPLASH PLAY AREA	WADING POOL
PARK AREAS															
	MINI-PARK														
1	ADMIRAL FLATLEY PARK	0.75	0.75												
2	(HENRY S.) ATKINSON PARK	0.99	0.99												
3	BRISK PARK	0.30	0.30												
Total		2.04	2.04												
	NEIGHBORHOOD PARK														
1	ASTOR PARK	8.30	8.30				1	1			3				1
2	BADGER PARK	5.67	5.67				1	1							
3	BAIRD PLACE	3.75	3.75												
4	BAY VIEW PARK	3.21	3.21				1	1						1	
5	D6 SOUTH PARK	22.47	22.47												
6	EAST RIVER EMILIE PARK	23.58	23.58				1			2					
7	EAST RIVER MEYER PARK	10.11	10.11												
8	EAST RIVER OPTIMIST PARK	9.14	9.14				2								
9	EAST RIVER VAN BEAVER PARK	44.23	44.23			1	1	1	1	1					
10	EASTMAN PARK	2.75	2.75				1	2						1	
11	EIGHTH STREET PARK	1.97	1.97					1							
12	FARLIN PARK	11.39	11.39		1			1		1	2			1	
13	FIREMAN'S PARK	13.72	13.72				1	1							
14	(TED) FRITSCH PARK	20.98	20.98				1	1		1	2				
15	(JOSEPH JR.) GAGNON PARK	5.28	5.28				1								
16	HE-NIS-RA PARK	54.92	54.92												
17	KENNEDY PARK	7.00	7.00		1			1		1					
18	LAKESIDE PLACE	2.61	2.61					1							
19	MARQUETTE PARK	7.90	7.90		1			1	2	2	3				1
20	MATHER HEIGHTS PARK	5.93	5.93				1	1		1					1
21	(CHRISTA) McAULIFFE PARK	38.49	38.49				1	1	1	2					
22	(JOHN) MUIR PARK	21.93	21.93				2	1			2				
23	MURPHY PARK	13.82	13.82				2	1			2				
24	NAVARINO PARK	3.94	3.94					1							
25	SAINT JAMES PARK	2.27	2.27					1							
26	SAINT JOHNS PARK	1.37	1.37		1			1							
27	SAINT PHILIP PARK	4.99		4.99				1	1						
28	SEYMOUR PARK	10.39	10.39		1			1						1	
29	VT PRIDE PARK	2.19	2.19												
30	WHITNEY PARK	2.64	2.64					1							
Total		366.94	361.95	4.99											

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PICNIC AREA	NATURE/WALKING TRAILS	SHELTER WITH RESTROOMS	OPEN SHELTER - NO RESTROOMS	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	DISC GOLF	SHORE FISHING	BOAT LAUNCH	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	HOCKEY	ICE SKATING	SLEDDING	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND PROGRAM	Additional Amenities
1	1		1												Flatley statue and obelisk
1											1		1		Perimeter stone wall
1													1		
1		1									1		1	1	Perennial garden, (3) lit tennis courts
1													1		
1															Flower beds
1		1											1	1	Currently undeveloped
	1						1								
1	1						1						1		
	1						1								Batting cage, concession stand, (2) lit softball/little league fields
1	1	1					1						1	1	(1) lit softball/little league field
1		1											1	1	
1		1		1									1	1	
1		1											1	1	
1		1									1		1	1	Shelter in fire station
1	1	1							1		1		1	1	Natural areas, (1) lit softball/little league field
1													1		
1	1		1						1				1		The City-owned playground is on Lombardi/King School property
1		1									1		1	1	
1		1											1		
1		1									1		1	1	
1		1											1	1	
1	1	1									1		1	1	Natural areas, stormwater wetland, (1) lit softball/little league field
1		1									1	1	1	1	Natural areas, (2) lit tennis courts
1		1											1	1	
1													1		Park under construction
1		1	1										1	1	Bandshell, 1/2 basketball court
1		1											1		
1		1											1	1	City leases and maintains property - (2) 1/2 Basketball courts in parking lot
1		1	1	1							1		2	1	Edible landscape garden
1	1	1											1	1	Trail to Kroc Center
1		1									1		1	1	1/2 basketball court

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PARK OR FACILITY CLASSIFICATION AND SITES/LOCATION		TOTAL ACREAGE	CITY	SCHOOL	BALL FIELDS - PRACTICE	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE	BASKETBALL COURT	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	TENNIS COURTS	PICKLEBALL	POOLS / AQUATIC CENTERS	SPLASH PLAY AREA	WADING POOL
PARK AREAS															
	PARK / SCHOOL														
1	(HENRY S.) BAIRD PARK/SCHOOL	20.02	13.96	6.06			2	2	1	1	4	1			
2	BEAUMONT PARK/SCHOOL	8.82	6.24	2.58			2	1		1	2				
3	BEAVER DAM PARK/SCHOOL	22.83	17.24	5.59			3	1	2		2				
4	CHAPPELL PARK/SCHOOL	11.40	5.53	5.87				1		2					
5	DANZ PARK/SCHOOL	22.61	7.01	15.6		1	1	1		1					
6	EDISON PARK/SCHOOL	28.15	16.27	11.88		1	2	1	2	1	4	4	1		
7	EISENHOWER PARK/SCHOOL	10.33	7.24	3.09			1	1		1	2				
8	FORT HOWARD PARK/JEFFERSON SCHOOL	19.09	17.20	1.89			1	1	1		2			1	
9	FORT HOWARD PARK/SCHOOL	3.65	0.63	3.02	1			1							
10	LOMBARDI & KING PARK/SCHOOL	26.59		26.59	2			1		2					
11	NICOLET PARK/SCHOOL	5.05	2.77	2.28	1			1		1					
12	RED SMITH PARK/SCHOOL	37.48	24.93	12.55	1			1		1	2			1	
13	(ANNE) SULLIVAN PARK/SCHOOL	9.91	6.00	3.91				1		1					
14	TANK PARK/SCHOOL	11.54	7.88	3.66			1	2			2				1
15	(LAURA INGALLS) WILDER PARK/SCHOOL	31.76	21.61	10.15			1	2		4					
Total		269.23	154.51	114.72											
	COMMUNITY PARK														
1	(ENOS) COLBURN PARK	60.48	60.48			1	3	1		2	2		1		
2	D6 NORTH PARK	66.90	42.42	24.48											
3	(HIRAM C.) FISK PARK	21.26	21.26					2	1		7		1	1	
4	JOANNES PARK	30.33	30.33			1		1			7		1		
5	PERKINS PARK	59.14	59.14			1	4	1	1	1	6				
6	PREBLE PARK	14.12	14.12				1	1		2					
Total		252.23	227.75	24.48											
	LARGE URBAN PARK														
1	BAY BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK	73.06	73.06				1		1						1
Total		73.06	73.06												
	SPORTS COMPLEX PARK														
1	ARNIE WOLFF SPORTS COMPLEX	38.42	38.42							4					
2	FINGER ROAD BALL FIELD COMPLEX	25.81	25.81				4								
Total		64.23	64.23												
	SPECIAL USE PARK														
1	BAY BEACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	542.98	542.98												
2	CITY DECK	1.79	1.79											1	
3	GREEN BAY METRO BOAT LAUNCH	12.95	12.95												
4	JACKSON SQUARE	1.37	1.37												
5	JOLIET PARK	5.25	5.25												
6	LEICHT MEMORIAL PARK	7.94	7.94												
7	RIVERVIEW PLACE	0.60	0.60												
8	TRIANGLE HILL	31.29	31.29												
9	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	0.88	0.88												
Total		605.05	605.05												
TOTAL PARKS		1632.78	1488.59	144.19	10	6	44	46	14	36	56	5	4	8	5

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PICNIC AREA	NATURE/WALKING TRAILS	SHELTER WITH RESTROOMS	OPEN SHELTER - NO RESTROOMS	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	DISC GOLF	SHORE FISHING	BOAT LAUNCH	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	HOCKEY	ICE SKATING	SLEDDING	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND PROGRAM	Additional Amenities
1													2	1	(1) basketball court at school, (1) lit softball/little league, (4) lit tennis courts
1		1									1		1	1	1/2 basketball court at school, (2) lit tennis courts
1			1							1	1		1	1	(2) lit softball/little league fields
				1									1		(2) 1/2 basketball courts at school
1	1	1										1	2	1	Roller hockey, basketball at school
1		1								1	1		1	1	Indoor pool, running track, (1) lit baseball, (1) lit softball, (4) lit tennis courts
1		1									1		1	1	(2) lit tennis courts
1		1											1	1	(1) lit softball/little league field, (2) lit tennis courts
1	1								1				2	1	Adjacent to He-Nis-Ra Park, running track on school property
1													1	1	(2) 1/2 basketball courts at school
	1		1							1	1		2	1	(2) 1/2 basketball courts at school
1	1												1		(2) 1/2 basketball courts at school
1		1	1										1	1	(2) 1/2 basketball courts at school, (1) lit softball/little league
1	1	1								1	1		2	1	1/2 basketball court at school, Arnie Wolff Memorial
1	1	2							1	1	1		2	1	Bocce ball, concession stand, batting cage, (1) lit softball/little league
															Currently undeveloped
1		1	1						1				1	1	Resch Aquatic Center, Del Marcelle Stadium, (2) lit basketball courts
1	1	1			1		1						1	1	Aquatic Center, (1) lit baseball, (1) lit basketball, police community center
1		1	1			1			1	1	1		1	1	Soccer in hockey rink, (1) lit baseball, (1) lit softball, (6) lit tennis courts
1		1							1				1	1	
1		1	7										2		Amusement rides, (1) lit softball/little league field
															Soccer complex, 2/3 of the park is developed
															Little league complex
1	1						1		1				2		Nature Center, Observation Building, zoo, playground pods
	1							1			1				Synthetic ice rink, boat docking, river overlook decks
1		1					1	1							City leases property from GBMSD, Bay interpretive center
1															Flower beds
1							1								Bay scenic view
	1						1	1							Festival grounds, docks, 2.59 AC city owned, 5.35 AC leased
								1							Informal boat launch
1	1	1				1						1			Ski hill, tubing hill
1	1						1								
55	21	37	16	3	1	2	10	4	8	6	18	4	59	36	

TABLE 2 – INVENTORY OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

PARK OR FACILITY CLASSIFICATION AND SITES/LOCATION		TOTAL ACREAGE	CITY	SCHOOL	BALL FIELDS - PRACTICE	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL/LITTLE LEAGUE	BASKETBALL COURT	FOOTBALL FIELD	SOCCER FIELD	TENNIS COURTS	PICKLEBALL	POOLS / AQUATIC CENTERS	SPLASH PLAY AREA	WADING POOL
NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS / GREENWAYS / URBAN GREEN SPACE															
	NATURAL RESOURCE AREA														
1	KEN EUERS NATURE AREA	116.89	116.89												
	Total	116.89	116.89												
	GREENWAYS														
1	BAIRD CREEK GREENWAY	492.02	369.30												
2	BARINA CREEK GREENWAY	15.68	15.68												
3	BEAVER DAM CREEK GREENWAY	51.88	51.88												
4	EAST RIVER GREENWAY- NORTH TRAIL	4.17	4.17												
5	ELLIS CREEK GREENWAY SOUTH BRANCH	14.42	14.42												
6	FOX RIVER GREENWAY EAST BANK	15.28	15.28												
7	FOX RIVER GREENWAY WEST BANK	2.20	2.20												
8	HE-NIS-RA GREENWAY	64.18	64.18												
9	HUTCHINSON BOG	9.63	9.63												
10	LACOUNT CREEK GREENWAY	10.72	10.72												
11	MAHON CREEK GREENWAY	24.61	24.61												
12	NEWBERRY CONSERVANCY	16.66	16.66												
13	NICHOLSON CREEK GREENWAY	6.43	6.43												
14	ONEIDA CREEK GREENWAY	5.23	5.23												
15	WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY N. BRANCH	60.23	60.23												
16	WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY S. BRANCH	40.06	40.06												
	Total	833.40	710.68												
	URBAN GREEN SPACE														
1	ASTOR PLACE	0.09	0.09												
2	HOOPS PARK	0.38	0.38												
3	BENTWOOD PLACE	0.48	0.48												
4	CITY HALL	0.19	0.19												
5	(ARTHUR C.) KEULER PLACE	0.24	0.24												
6	MAIN STREET (1500 BLOCK)	1.83	1.83												
7	MILITARY AND 7TH AVENUE	0.73	0.73												
8	RED SMITH TRAIL CORRIDOR	5.81	5.81												
9	WEST SIDE TRAIL CORRIDOR	16.01	16.01												
10	WILDCAT PLACE	0.12	0.12												
	Total	25.88	25.88												
	TOTAL MISC. GREEN SPACE	976.17	853.45	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	GRAND TOTAL (PARK AREAS + MISC. GREEN SPACE)	2608.95	2342.04	144.19	10	6	44	46	14	36	56	5	4	8	5

Additional Amenities															
PICNIC AREA	NATURE/WALKING TRAILS	SHELTER WITH RESTROOMS	OPEN SHELTER - NO RESTROOMS	COMMUNITY GARDEN	SKATEPARK	DISC GOLF	SHORE FISHING	BOAT LAUNCH	CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	HOCKEY	ICE SKATING	SLEDDING	PLAYGROUND	PLAYGROUND PROGRAM	
1						1									Bay scenic view
1									1						County owns 122.72 acres, mountain bike trails, prairie restoration areas
1															
1							1	1							Paddle sport launch and fishing pier located by Porlier Street.
1							1								9-11 Memorial, Neville Museum
1															
						1									
0	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
55	29	37	16	3	1	2	14	5	9	6	18	4	59	36	

C. TRAIL INVENTORY

The following trail inventory indicates the various trail types throughout the park system that are recognized and maintained by the City. In addition to those listed here there are many miles of informal, unimproved dirt trails throughout the park system, especially within the larger greenways and open space areas that are not counted in the trail inventories below.

It is worth noting that part of the Fox River Trail in downtown Green Bay contains a designated art/sculpture walk. Also, parts of the Fox River Trail, Baird Creek Greenway Trail and some east side park sites are also incorporated into the Green Bay Packers Heritage Trail. The heritage trail is set up primarily as a walking tour in the downtown and near east side and highlights significant people, places and events in Green Bay Packers history (from 1919 to 1968) through a series of bronze commemorative plaques. The Heritage Trail was developed and is maintained by a private foundation.



TABLE 5 – TRAIL INVENTORY (See Map 3)

EXISTING PAVED SHARED-USE TRAILS	EXISTING MILES
Baird Creek Trail	3.10
Baird Creek Preserve Trail	0.40
East River Trail – Main Trail	1.94
East River Trail – Streus Pharmacy	0.10
East River Trail – West Bank, South of Cass Street	0.84
Fox River West Bank	0.43
Fox River East Bank	2.19
West Side Trail	1.14
Total	10.14 Miles
EXISTING INFORMAL TRAILS	EXISTING MILES
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.72
Ken Euers Park	2.00
Red Smith Park	0.68
Wildlife Sanctuary	6.20
Total	11.60 Miles
EXISTING CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS	EXISTING MILES
Baird Creek Greenway	3.32
Christa McAuliffe Park	0.82
Colburn Park	1.93
Ted Fritsch Park	0.65
He-Nis-Ra Park	2.28
Perkins Park	1.66
Preble Park	0.60
Wildlife Sanctuary	4.32
Total	15.58 Miles
DESIGNATED MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS (DIRT)	EXISTING MILES
Baird Creek Greenway	8.00

CHAPTER 4 - OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. INTRODUCTION

This chapter looks at how well the City of Green Bay park facilities meet the recreational needs of the community. This is done by comparing Green Bay's system of parks to general standards for park acreage and distribution. These standards represent guidelines by which we can measure progress and identify weaknesses in the acreage and distribution of parks. Standards can also be used to evaluate various facilities within the parks. However, these standards are relative, minimum requirements and should serve as general criteria to aid in the planning and decision making process, not absolute requirements.

The Park Classifications used are based on information presented in the "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines", 1996, by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). To reiterate, these are general guidelines and considering the differing socioeconomic, climatic, geographic, and cultural diversity of various areas, it would be almost impossible and undesirable to apply all of the standards to every situation in every community.

The NRPA Guidelines provide two methods of analysis for looking at potential deficiencies in the provision of parkland to the community. One method analyzes existing classifiable parkland per capita in terms of acres per 1,000 population. The other method looks at Park Service Areas and the ability of the populace to have access to a given classification of park within a certain distance.

B. RECREATION NEEDS ANALYSIS OF PARK LAND AND FACILITIES

ACREAGE ANALYSIS OF PARK LAND

In general terms, in order to meet the core needs of providing recreation to the population, a community should provide approximately 10 acres of classifiable parkland space for every 1,000 of its population. Different classifications of park land have differing functions and facilities that are needed to provide access for recreational opportunities. The various classifications of park land are shown in **Table 7**. *Classifiable Parkland* is identified as mini parks, neighborhood parks and community parks and are described further below. For this analysis the neighborhood park classification also includes park/school sites.

Mini-Parks - Should be easily accessible by children within a ¼-mile radius and should provide limited recreational opportunities such as a playground, court games and open space for gathering or general free play.

Neighborhood Parks - Should be geographically centered to be within easy walking or biking access by children, typically within a ½-mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide general to intense recreation and typically include areas for open play or field games, programmed activities, court games, playground structures, ice skating, wading pools or splash pads and picnic areas. Neighborhood parks often include a shelter building with restrooms and may be part of a park/school site.

Community Parks - Typically have a service area of 1- to 2-mile radius unless serving as a neighborhood park and provide recreational opportunities for children and adults. They contain those facilities present in neighborhood parks and may also include off-street parking, open shelters, picnic areas, baseball

fields, softball fields, tennis courts, hockey rinks, winter sports activities, natural water bodies and landscaped areas and more specialized facilities such as swimming pool facilities or water parks and disc golf courses.

For the purposes of analyzing the proper provision of classifiable park land, NRPA Guidelines state mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks should collectively provide between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of park land per 1,000 population. **Table 6.1** shows how the current classifiable park acreage in the City of Green Bay park system compares to this standard. Overall the City of Green Bay park acreage is within the range required to meet the needs according to the formula. Classifiable park land accounts for approximately 34% of all park land in the City.

TABLE 6.1 – CLASSIFIABLE PARK ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION

	Park Type	NRPA Guidelines		City of Green Bay Parks	
		NRPA Guidelines by Park Type Acres per 1,000 pop.	Equivalent Acres Based on Green Bay's Population	Total Acres by Park Type (as of March 2014)	Actual Acres per 1,000 Persons
	Mini-Park	.25 - .5	26 - 52	2.04	0.02
	Neighborhood Park	1.0 - 2.0	105 - 209	636.17	6.08
	Community Park	5.0 - 8.0	523 - 837	252.23	2.41
	Totals	6.25 - 10.5	654 - 1,098	890.44	8.51

NOTES: City of Green Bay population used for calculations is 2010 census data population of 104,057.
Total City of Green Bay classifiable park acreages shown are as of March 2014.

The other types of park land and their acreages are shown for comparative purposes in **Table 6.2**. These classes of park land may provide open space for stormwater management, stream buffers, trail systems, specialized types of recreation or other functions that do not meet the general criteria of providing access to the types of recreation and facilities found in classifiable park land. They account for approximately 66% of all park land in the City.

TABLE 6.2 – PARK ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION

	Park Type	NRPA Guidelines		City of Green Bay Parks	
		NRPA Guidelines by Park Type Acres per 1,000 pop.	Equivalent acres based on Green Bay's population	Total acres by by Park Type (as of March 2014)	Actual acres per 1,000 persons
	Large Urban Park	variable	*	73.06	0.7
	Sports Complex	variable	*	64.23	0.61
	Special Use Park	variable	*	605.05	5.79
	Natural Resource Area	variable	*	116.89	0.16
	Greenways	variable	*	833.4	7.97
	Urban Green Space	variable	*	25.88	0.25
	Totals	*	*	1,718.51	15.48

NOTES: City of Green Bay population used for calculations is 2010 census data population of 104,057.
Total City of Green Bay classifiable park acreages shown are as of March 2014.

DISTRIBUTION AND QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF PARK LAND

DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Another method to look at how well existing parks meet the needs of providing recreation for the community is to look at the distribution of park land relative to the population being served.

Table 7 shows the NRPA recommendations for service radii to the various types of parks. These guidelines would suggest that all residents should have safe, easy access to a neighborhood park, community park or park/school site within one-half mile of their home or a play lot (mini-park) within one-quarter mile. Using this method, the City does a reasonable job of meeting the needs for recreation through the provision of neighborhood and community parks within an acceptable walking distance of most residents. This is especially true in the “older” areas of the City that developed with the traditional grid pattern. Where the provision of classifiable park land falls short is in the outlying eastern and western edges of the City, which is developed on an auto-oriented planning pattern where development is more dispersed.

It is also worth noting that in some older, central areas of the City, parks are often smaller. In addition, some neighborhoods are cut off by busy four-lane roadways or similar barriers that can be difficult for younger children to safely navigate. Therefore, additional park land should be provided in these areas.

While it is helpful to look at these *quantitative* and *geographical* standards in analyzing how any given community meets the recreational needs of its population it is also necessary to look at *qualitative* criteria, as well as what is unique to the City of Green Bay and how location relative to demand affect how well the needs are met.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

For approximately the past 50 years, the existing park system in Green Bay has been generally based on the neighborhood park concept and therefore many newer areas of the City have park access as described by these standards. The older areas often have more parks within closer proximity but of smaller size. **Map 4** helps us identify where we meet the standards, as well as where we have access problems and where future parks should be considered.

Note that, rather than show a ½-mile radius etc. the map has delineated the actual approximate service area based on neighborhood boundaries and major street corridors. This helps to more accurately identify un-serviced locations.

Past experience in Green Bay has shown that 15 acres of actual usable space has worked well for neighborhood parks, while 25 acres of usable space works well for community parks. In the case of neighborhood parks, this often results in a total park area of 20 to 40 acres (Community Park, 30-60 acres) when combined with a waterfront parkway or natural area. Combining the environmentally-valuable areas with the neighborhood or community parks provides economy of scale for maintenance, access for the public and preserves a valuable natural heritage for Green Bay’s future generations. See Chapter 5 to review recommendations for serving these areas.

DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITY TYPES

The NRPA has also established recommended standards for specific recreation facilities. These are listed in **Table 8** and show suggested numbers of each type of facility per unit of population as well as a service

radius. This is useful when considering how well various facility types are distributed throughout the City. However, these are meant to be used as approximate minimum guidelines and not absolute requirements. The number and size of recreation facilities tends to fluctuate greatly from one community to another depending on local demand. These recommendations are referred to in the Action Plan.

The provision and distribution of facility types coincides with the distribution and size of classifiable park types. While the older core areas of the City are well-served by classifiable parks, these parks are usually smaller in size and often do not have the space available to accommodate some facility types, most notably softball fields, baseball fields and soccer fields. These athletic fields tend to be located in larger neighborhood parks, community parks or sports complexes, and therefore are not evenly distributed or readily accessible to all areas of the City.

In planning for the provision of additional facilities in the future, it will be useful to look at where current facilities are located in relation to demand and plan accordingly.

C. LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

The NRPA analysis methods reviewed here reflect professional judgment rather than an assessment of specific community needs. The needs for every community differ dramatically. A newer method for analyzing provision of recreation is defined as the Level of Service Standard (LOS) method. The LOS is a revised approach that defines the customer's needs rather than an arbitrary standard such as the number of tennis courts per 50,000 people.

The LOS method simply calculates the existing demand verses the existing supply of park land and facilities. The research information is gathered through a survey sent out to residents. This survey helps to determine the number of residents using the parks, how often they are used and which facilities are used the most. Incorporating a series of calculations, it can be determined if there is a demand or surplus of park land or facilities. The benefit of using the LOS method is that it determines what the residents, specific to Green Bay, would require for adequate park service. It may be useful for the City of Green Bay to look at this type of evaluation sometime in the future.

D. PUBLIC INPUT METHOD FOR CONDUCTING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

For the purposes of this plan update, public input was gathered more informally over the past few years through interaction with smaller user groups as opposed to broader surveys or polling of the general population.

Park Department staff regularly meets with various user groups such as Little League organizations, soccer clubs, high school athletic departments and neighborhood organizations to discuss the planning and maintenance of the park facilities. We have compiled a list of general comments over the last several years. This input was vital in the development of this plan. A list of documented public comments is provided in **Appendix A**.

The City of Green Bay has approximately 39 neighborhood associations representing a significant area of the City. These groups serve to represent the interests of citizens in those neighborhoods and are a primary conduit for communicating the needs and desires of residents with respect to park and recreation facilities. Park staff attends neighborhood association meetings on a regular basis to discuss park issues.

Master Planning for redevelopment or new development of individual parks and facilities usually include public presentations and feedback/comment sessions. Neighborhoods and individual user group comments are then used to guide development of the master plan.

A combination of these various conduits of public input are used to guide the development and location of new park facilities.

E. ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES

In 2007 the City of Green Bay was audited by the Federal Government for ADA compliance. The Green Bay park system was thoroughly inspected by the Department of Justice. As to be expected there were many parks that needed to be brought up to current ADA standards. The Department of Justice compiled a list of park ADA renovation projects that needed to be completed within a 1- to 2-year period. This list focused on several parks spread out around the City, not the entire park system. The City did complete all of the required work to the satisfaction of the Federal Government. Since 2007, the City has met all ADA accessibility compliance standards with all new construction projects.

Over the next several years, the Parks Department will work with the City's Risk Management office to complete a self ADA audit of all City facilities, including park facilities. The purpose of the self audit is to inspect all park facilities for ADA compliance issues, document all of the needed repairs and put together a phasing plan to implement any necessary repairs.

Park and recreational facilities should be made barrier-free and accessible to disabled park users to meet the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodation should be provided where feasible, such that the majority of park facilities and outdoor features are accessible to as many visitors as possible. Furthermore, universal design standards should be followed to comply with federal ADA regulations as a requirement for most grant-in-aid programs. In addition to meeting ADA requirements, designing to meet the goals and objectives of Inclusive Play should also be considered when designing and implementing new facilities.

TABLE 7 - CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR RECREATION OPEN SPACE

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria	Application of LOS
Mini-Park (MP)	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than ¼ -mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.	Yes
Neighborhood Park (NP)	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ - ½ -mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5 to 10 acres is optimal.	Yes
Park/ School (PS)	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function	Yes – but should not count school only uses
Community Park (CP)	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½- to 3- mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.	Yes
Large Urban Park (LU)	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.	Yes
Sports Complex (SC)	Consolidates heavily-programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically-located community-wide facilities	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 to 80 acres being optimal.	Yes
Special Use (SU)	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable – dependent on specific use	Variable	Depends on type of use
Natural Resource Areas (NR)	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics / buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	No
Greenways (GW)	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity	Variable	No

TABLE 8 - FACILITY DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Basketball 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegiate	2,400 – 3,036 sq. ft. 5,040 – 7,280 sq. ft. 5,600 – 7,980 sq. ft.	46-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50' x 94' 5' unobstructed space on all sides	1 per 5,000	¼ - ½-mile	Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85' x 200' (minimum 85' x 185'). Additional 5,000 sq. ft. including support area	Indoor-1 per 100,000. Outdoor-depends on climate.	½-1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multipurpose facility.
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36' x 78', 12' clearance on both sides, 21' clearance on both ends	1 court per 2,000	¼ - ½ mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood or community park or adjacent to school site.
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30' x 60' Minimum, 6' clearance on all sides	1 court per 5,000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton, basketball, etc.)
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	3.0 - 3.85 A minimum 1.2 A minimum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baselines-90', Pitching distance-60 ½', Foul lines-min. 320', Center field-400' + Baselines-60', Pitching distance-46', Foul lines-200' Center field-200'-250' 	1 per 5,000 Lighted-1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 10' clearance on all sides	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey
Soccer	1.7 to 2.1A	195' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' minimum clearance on all sides	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity- Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
¼-Mile Running Track	4.3A	Overall width - 276', length-600' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer.
Softball	1.5 to 2.0A	Baselines-60', Pitching distance - 45' Men, 40'-women Fast pitch field radius from plate-225', between foul lines. Slow pitch - 275' (men), 250' (women)	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum of 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/ metro park complex
Golf 1. Par 3 (18-Hole) 2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50-60A Minimum 50A Minimum 110A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average length-vary 600-2,700 yards Average length-2,250 yards Average length-6,500 yards 	-- • 1/25,000 • 1/50,000	½ - 1 hour travel time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day. 18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people a day. Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually 1 to 2A site.	Teaching-minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive-minimum of 25m x 16m. Minimum of 25 sq. ft. of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2.1 deck vs. water.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 - 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.

CHAPTER 5 – ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present recommendations for the development and acquisition of lands for new park sites, the expansion of existing parks, and the protection and preservation of environmentally-significant areas. Recommendations are based on the analysis as outlined in Chapter 4, as well as observed demand and known inadequacies of various types of facilities. The following is a brief summary of the sections of this chapter.

- NEW PARK AND SERVICE AREA RECOMMENDATIONS - Outlines recommendations for land purchase and related new park sites to serve anticipated future population growth.
- RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTIVITY - General development strategies which focus on specific activities rather than specific parks.
- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PARKS, NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS AND GREENWAYS - Expansion and improvements of existing parks by park area.
- NON-MUNICIPAL AREA RECOMMENDATIONS - Recommendations pertaining to lands not managed by the City of Green Bay and Recreation Department.

Maps 2 and 3 diagram some of the park expansion and acquisition recommendations made in the Action Program.

B. NEW PARK AND SERVICE AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIORITIES FOR ACQUISITION

Table 9 shows how current classifiable park land will meet the needs of the projected Green Bay population growth over the next 15 years based on the acres per 1,000 standard.

TABLE 9 – FUTURE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL CLASSIFIABLE PARK LAND

All Classifiable Park Land (Mini, Neighborhood and Community Parks)					
	Year	Projected Population	Acres Needed Per NRPA Standard Per 1,000 Persons (6.25 - 10.5)	Existing Acres	Acres Needed
	2010	104,057*	654 - 1,098	890.44	0 - 207.56
	2015	105,387	659 - 1,107	890.44	0 - 216.56
	2020	106,354	665 - 1,117	890.44	0 - 226.56
	2025	107,737	673 - 1,131	890.44	0 - 240.56

NOTES: *City of Green Bay population used for calculations is 2010 census data population.
Existing City of Green Bay park acreages shown are as of March 2014.
Projected Populations Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Demographic Services Center

The existing acreage of classifiable park land in the Green Bay system meets the current (2010) need and is adequate to meet the minimum need into the coming years based on the per 1,000 population standard.

However, as discussed in Chapter 4, geographic distribution relative to service area, as well as demand related to facility type, will require acquisition of additional park land and development of new facilities to meet future recreation needs. Priorities for land acquisition will be contingent upon the changing characteristics of a neighborhood, the growth rate of developing areas and changes in the demand for specific recreational facilities.

For additional acquisition to take place, the Parks Department should continue to request funds for general park purchase on a yearly basis. To assure that the purchases are appropriate and consistent with Park Committee objectives, staff should aggressively develop a long-range acquisition plan detailing purchasing objectives with dated and suggested funding sources.

SMALL UNSERVICED AREAS

The developed residential areas of the City are for the most part well-serviced by the existing neighborhood and/or community parks, but there are a few locations within the City where existing park land is not easily accessible. (An asterisk in **Map 4** marks locations of these areas.) Each area should be carefully studied and reviewed with the local residents and elected officials to identify the demand and outline alternate ways to meet the needs. Solutions should be sought that combine public and private resources into a joint project to serve these areas cost effectively. It may be difficult or impossible to serve some locations due to the fact no open space may be available and areas may be cost prohibitive to purchase.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY PARK

There are no community parks servicing the far west portion of the City. Due to its size, He-Nis-Ra Park has the most potential for becoming a community park in this area. Further development of this park such as additional parking, play areas, picnic areas, ball fields, toboggan run, rental shelters, etc. should be considered when and if the demand of the residents warrants this action. If found to be impossible the next recommended alternative for a community park would be to improve existing facilities, add new facilities and possibly expand Beaver Dam Park.

PROPOSED NEW PARK AREAS

The far eastern portion of the City is currently rural in nature. The City should explore the possibility of purchasing land for park development in both the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the City. Both areas will see significant residential growth over the next 20 years. The Parks Department should work closely with the Planning Department to monitor the future land use to determine the exact locations for the new park land because the property value in these areas will significantly increase when development occurs. (See **Map 2 - Proposed new park areas are identified in magenta.**)

C. RECOMMENDATIONS BY ACTIVITY

There are a number of areas for which the City has general development strategies that encompass many different parks. This type of development is best addressed on a City-wide basis. The following outline these recommendations:

BASKETBALL COURTS

There are currently 46 basketball courts located in 41 City parks. There are two locations with double courts. The City currently has two lit basketball courts at Fisk Park on the west side and one lit basketball court at Joannes Park on the east side. In the long term the City should expand the single court at Joannes Park to a double court. A full-size court would be desirable at Red Smith Park on the far east side. The only other proposed new courts would be in the proposed new undeveloped park areas.

Basketball courts tend to be highly-utilized facilities and thus demand regular attention. Resurfacing is needed on a regular basis. The worst courts have recently been replaced. More consistent funding needs

to be provided for regular maintenance and repair so that the courts do not get in the run down condition that many were in prior to the recent renovations.

Currently there are 36 adult basketball teams and 125 youth participants in basketball programs. Open gyms are offered at 9 locations weekly from November through March and attract 30 participants per site, which is approximately 6,000 participants per year. These games are now played in rented, indoor locations such as schools. The rental fees, as well as scheduling around school activities, tend to create problems. A public facility for this purpose, as well as other indoor recreation activities, would alleviate these problems and should be studied for the future.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

There is a shortage of baseball fields in Green Bay, especially in High School, American Legion and Babe Ruth leagues. Some demand is unserved, including a high school freshman program. There are six baseball fields in Green Bay. The Facility Development Standards suggest there should be at least 21 baseball fields in the City. Only two of the six high schools (one public and one parochial) have their own baseball field. The Bullfrogs, a Northwoods League franchise team, currently play at the premier field in Joannes Park.

One additional baseball diamond should be built on each side of the City within the next five years along with improvements to fencing and lighting at two fields. Some other diamonds should be consolidated so that there are several parks with at least two diamonds so as to allow regulation high school play, aid tournaments and allow for more efficient maintenance.

On the far-east side, there is the possibility to create several new ball fields, at least one at the proposed east side high school / D6 South / D6 North park complex. The two ball fields at East River Van Beaver Park should be relocated and renovated into baseball fields with lighting.



On the west side, opportunities for baseball may include land currently used for a railroad yard next to Seymour Park and the railroad land south of Tank Park. These two sites could accommodate several fields if the property becomes available and funding can be provided. The Perkins Park master plan also proposes to convert a softball/little league field into a baseball field creating a two-field complex.

Historically, the most popular park-related recreational activity in Green Bay has been softball. With the growth in popularity of activities such as soccer, a decline in the popularity of softball was expected. For the most part, this has not occurred, and softball remains very popular. Overall, the demand for additional fields is high.

The City now has 44 softball diamonds, 13 of which are lighted. This number has declined from 63 in 1992 but still exceeds the 21 fields suggested by the Facility Development Standards. Many of these fields are also used for Little League play. These diamonds serve 141 adult teams in 21 leagues, as well as numerous youth teams in 22 youth leagues. Youth Baseball (Little League) had approximately 1,100+ participants in summer leagues of T-Ball through Majors divisions and another 300 in Babe Ruth play; Minors and Majors divisions had 300± playing fall ball with another 100 in Babe Ruth.

Each high school has a girls' varsity and junior varsity softball team but none have a softball field. Girls youth softball programs had approximately 465 participants in summer leagues and another 100 playing in fall games.

It should be noted that several of the fields have insufficiently deep outfield fences. Also, there is a need for more lighted facilities to relieve the pressure on existing diamonds, which are utilized to their maximum potential. This heavy use leaves diamonds in a poor, hard-to-maintain condition. In addition, for all fields actively used, the City should provide paved dugout areas.

As with baseball fields another issue for softball is the limited opportunity for tournament play in Green Bay. Parks staff will be studying possible methods and locations for consolidating softball fields into a "complex" in an effort to increase maintenance efficiency and provide for tournament play. Some of the older non-usable fields can then be removed and used for other activities. Recently the City installed the Finger Road Sport Complex which consists of 4 fields designed for tournament play. In addition, the Perkins Park master plan shows a reconfiguration of 3 fields into a cloverleaf pattern. Two additional little league/softball fields could also be created at D6 North.

BOATING FACILITIES

The Metro Boat Launch is located along the Bay of Green Bay and is the only public boat launch owned by the City of Green Bay. There are two private boat launches located in close proximity to the Metro Boat Launch and two other public boat launch facilities located on the Bay in Brown County. The City does not offer any boat launch facilities along the Fox River, although there are several in Brown County south of Green Bay. Public docks should work in conjunction with private facilities to fulfill the demand and not inhibit private investment.



The City of Green Bay has one designated canoe/kayak launch area located along the Fox River at the base of the Porlier Fishing Pier. This facility is not developed; it is only a mowed walk leading from Washington Street to the shoreline. The City should consider locating funding to develop this site with a paved walk with site amenities. The Parks Department recently received a DNR Stewardship Grant to purchase property along the East River to convert to a canoe/kayak launch. The City should secure funding to develop the launch incorporating an ADA accessible ramp, a trail, parking and a picnic shelter.

The City of Green Bay offers transient floating docking along the Fox River at Leicht Memorial Park, CityDeck and just north of Main Street. There are also several businesses and condo developments in the downtown area that offer transient docking. It appears as though there is adequate transient docking opportunities within the City.

Over the past several years other locations were proposed for additional boat launch sites. These alternative sites are listed below and would require further study.

Riverview Place Park: The Riverview Place site is currently undeveloped and is planned to be a small scale or informal canoe launch site. It is suggested as a boat launch because of its location along the Fox River, the City owns the property and there are no other public launches on the west side of Green Bay within the City limits. Additional land would need to be purchased to create an ideal boat launch facility.

Fox River West Bank, North of Mason Street: The Downtown Design Plan indicated this 15-acre property as a possible multi-purpose marina with adjacent housing, offices, shops and restaurants. A marina at this location would support broader aims for downtown, Broadway Avenue and central riverfront revitalization. However, limited space for parking and downtown traffic conditions may preclude a major boat launch at this location.

Bay Beach Amusement Park: Considering the high recreational attraction that the Bay Beach Amusement Park represents, a boat launch and docking facility should be considered for that area. Shallow water depths would require significant dredging within the Bay to provide adequate boating opportunities.

COMMUNITY CENTER

The Green Bay Parks Department does not have a community center. Instead the City works with the School District to provide recreational programs within the existing schools. This is not typical for communities of similar size. A community center can provide for activities such as basketball, volleyball, dance, pom-pom, handicapped activities and senior activities. The City should complete a needs assessment to determine if the community desires this type of facility.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Community gardens have expanded dramatically over the last five years. There are currently five community gardens situated on park property. Two of the gardens at Eighth Street Park and Chappell Park/School are managed through the Parks Department. The other three community gardens at Seymour, Fisk and University Avenue are managed by the Neighborhood Associations and West High School. The Seymour Community Garden is unique in that the neighborhood association teaches gardening classes to the neighborhood children, and the majority of the produce is donated to local shelters. The County Extension Office also manages several additional community gardens within the City limits. The Parks Department coordinates with the County to provide free compost and helps with the tilling in the spring and fall.

Over the last few years several other neighborhood associations have requested additional community gardens in other park locations. The City is currently working with the City Planning Department and Brown County Extension to identify alternative non-park sites to use for community gardens developing a new community garden policy to ensure that all future community gardens are maintained and managed in a similar manner.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING TRAILS

Cross-country skiing has continued to be a popular activity. Wherever the City has the space and the time to groom, people tend to ski. The Green Bay Park, Recreation & Forestry Department currently grooms trails in eight park areas. The City will continue to provide and groom trails as time and manpower permits and as appropriate areas are purchased, such as Baird Creek Greenway and He-Nis-Ra Park. The City will urge the County and the State to assist in meeting this recreation demand, as large areas with hills and trees are normally desired.

DISC GOLF

The City currently has two disc golf courses, one on the east side and one on the west side. Both are heavily used. The City should continue to work with the user groups to maintain and improve the facilities. The City should address the excessive erosion at the tee boxes and baskets at Triangle Hill, which is the east side location.

ECOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Parks Department will plan and design parks and greenways to sustain environmentally-sensitive features, reduce negative environmental effects and serve as models of land stewardship. The Parks

Department will work judiciously to reduce the amount of park area devoted to mowed turf and introduce in its place (preferably native) plant species that require less maintenance, provide habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife, and provide filtration of water runoff. Invasive, non-native plant species should be controlled whenever feasible. Best Management Practices will be utilized to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff. Finally, recycled products will be used wherever possible.

FISHING AREAS

The City of Green Bay is located on the southern edge of the Bay of Green Bay. The Fox River, East River and Baird Creek all converge in close proximity to Green Bay's downtown. Even though there are ample fishing opportunities, the City maintains very few designated fishing locations. The old Porlier railroad bridge that crosses the Fox River was recently converted to a fishing pier on the east bank. This pier is the only designated public fishing pier in Green Bay. Additional locations should be researched over the next 5 years.

The only areas in the park system currently promoted with shoreline fishing spots, and to some degree managed as such, is the lagoon system at the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary and the fishing platforms at East River Van Beaver Park. The Wildlife Sanctuary has recently completed major renovations to its lagoon system. The lagoons were dredged, a freshwater well was installed and a major waterfall was installed to promote water circulation. The lagoons are stocked annually with fish. An informal fishing pier was installed, and the Sanctuary regularly hosts fishing events to teach children how to fish. Due to the success of this program, the City should secure funding to develop the site with walks, ADA accessible fishing piers and an open shelter. The East River platforms unfortunately are marginal for fishing quality.



Informal fishing does occur at other park facilities such as Leicht Memorial Park, Joliet Park, Ken Euers Nature Area, Metro Boat Launch, Veterans Memorial Park, and the east bank of the Fox River. The City should continue to promote informal fishing. Over the next five years the City should research development opportunities to create additional fishing opportunities at the Metro Boat Launch due to the many fishing tournaments held at this location.

FOOTBALL FIELDS

The organized football program consists of 40 male teams, 4 adult female teams using 4 fields. The parochial league also rents our facilities and has 700 children participating. Football fields are normally built in conjunction with lighted ball diamonds for more cost efficient maintenance and lighting. As the demand increases, all new fields should be designed and constructed similarly as multi-use fields. The demand is stable at this time, and no new fields are planned in the near future. At 14, the number of football fields in Green Bay currently exceeds the six suggested in the Facilities Development Standards, although some of the fields are somewhat smaller than regulation size.

GREENWAYS

Drainage ways are important assets in terms of their environmental significance, i.e. providing wildlife habitat, efficient, cost-effective management of stormwater control and reduction of flooding, natural amenities and recreational opportunities. **Map 2** diagrams recommendations



for the continued purchase and expansion of the greenways/drainage ways. For the most part these areas should be maintained as natural open space. The delineation of these areas is primarily established by the Public Works Department based on drainage-related criteria. The County also identifies most of these drainage ways as environmentally-sensitive areas (ESA). Areas adjacent to parks or of exceptional natural value such as Lacount Creek, Willow Creek, Beaver Dam Creek and Mahon Creek should be considered for possible Nature Trail development. This of course would be contingent on the local citizen preferences and in some cases may require the purchase of additional land.

Facilities along the waterfront should range from areas of active and passive recreation to natural areas, as well as various types of adjacent commercial and retail development. The City should continue to discourage the practice by adjacent landowners of mowing turf to the water's edge due to its impact on non-point source erosion. All shorelines should be protected from erosion. This waterfront system should connect to existing parks, as well as other waterfront urban areas wherever feasible.

A key component of the overall waterfront development quality is an adequate trail system. In order to maintain a continuous trail as much as possible, it may be necessary to construct specialized pedestrian bridge structures to circumvent major street areas or other structures. The next priority should be completing trail connections throughout the Baird Creek and East River Greenways; (see **Map 3**). Where full-scale greenway developments are not feasible, it may be advantageous to provide some public access to the waterfront through the development of street end parks in existing right-of-ways.

HOCKEY AND ICE SKATING

There are six hockey rinks in the City. At this time there are no plans to develop additional hockey rinks. Evidence suggests that there is a high demand for hockey rinks in Green Bay, but there is no specific data to support that claim. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department staff should quantify the need and examine options to outdoor rinks, such as a large indoor facility. An indoor rink should be a joint public-private venture if it is verified that the demand exists to support it.



At this time 18 ice skating areas are managed. This is a reduced number from 28 skating areas in 1986. Based on recent public requests, new rinks would only be needed in the newer outlying parks. City staff should review the practicality of having many small neighborhood ice rinks due to limiting weather conditions in Green Bay. Fewer larger facilities would be more practical, reduce maintenance and provide a better quality experience, but the neighborhoods prefer to keep their small local rinks. Demand for skating rinks should be analyzed yearly, and staff should continue to study and promote the concept of fewer, larger quality facilities.

The City manages one synthetic ice rink. The rink is located on CityDeck and is in operation from mid-November to early March. Due to the excessive maintenance costs this is the only rink that charges an admission and has skate rentals available. This rink has proven to be very popular. Staff should research the possibility of rink expansion and should secure funding for a platform to level the rink. The City should find opportunities to set this rink up year round in an alternate location.

NEW SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

The field of recreation in general is undergoing many changes. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is under some pressure to develop new facilities supporting various activities. Desired activities include fitness areas, pickleball, BMX bike courses, outdoor handball courts, a soap box derby

course, mountain bike trails, fat tire bike trails, tot lots, rugby, lacrosse, in-line skating facilities (as well as roller hockey) and a cricket field. Many of these activities are being or have been studied by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and, while some have been accommodated, presently demand does not warrant development of all of them.

Several of the above noted activities come up for discussion more frequently including BMX ramps, mountain bike trails, and pickleball. The City should continue to investigate the need and possibilities for developing these facilities. Within the next five years demand may increase and there may be a need to develop some of the other noted recreation facilities.

PLAYGROUNDS

Playground equipment has undergone extensive changes in the last 30 years. Many of these changes have resulted in better-utilized, more aesthetic play equipment with greater overall play value. The greatest number of changes, though, have related to safety and accessibility. The Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines and the Americans with Disabilities Act have literally changed the face of



American playgrounds in an effort to make our play areas safer and more accessible for all of our citizens.

The Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has stayed abreast of these changes, and the oldest playground the City maintains is from 1990.

City staff (including two Certified Playground Safety

Inspectors) have been trained in designing and inspecting playgrounds and monitors the latest guidelines to make recommendations based on a balanced approach. The objective is to provide a quality play experience that is safe and as accessible to as many people as possible. Overall the equipment must be durable and maintainable and justifiable as a long-term investment of City resources. In addition, paved walks should be provided to all playgrounds per ADA guidelines.

The City currently maintains 59 playgrounds. In order to maintain a 20-year replacement schedule, three playgrounds need to be replaced on a yearly basis. Additional playgrounds should be included in the D6 North and D6 South Parks as development of those parks occurs. Other playgrounds may be required in some of the small, unserved areas of the City. The master plan for Bay Beach Amusement Park identifies a regional, themed playground unique to Bay Beach.

Due to tight budgets playground replacement is beginning to fall behind this schedule. If at all possible the City should maintain a regular phased program of replacements. (See specific park proposals for details of playground replacement needs.) Safety, play value and maintainability are the main criteria for replacement.

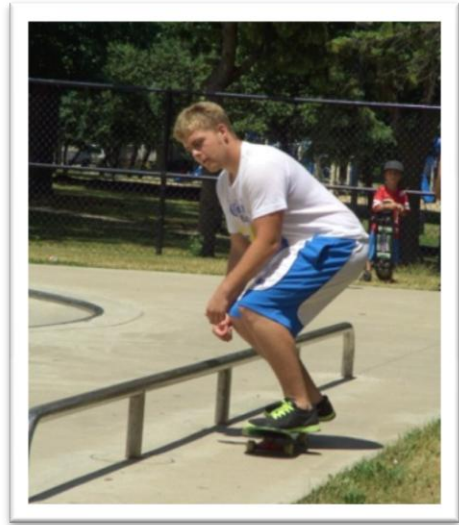
PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

The summer playground program is offered at 36 sites and attracts 62,800 participants on an annual basis. The School District provides 110,000 free lunches in the summer to 31 of these 36 locations through a USDA Grant. The children served range in age from 6-18. Programming offered includes the City wide games day, sports tournament, Kids' Day, Wildlife Sanctuary Day, talent shows, fishing, theme days, reading program, gardening program, Kiddie Karnival and Kiddie Parade.

This Green Bay playground program has been around for years and the Parks Department will continue to offer this service and seek other programming opportunities to keep the program vibrant and exciting.

SKATE PARK

The City maintains one concrete skate park at Joannes Park and it has been very popular. Annual fundraising efforts have generated enough funds to explore expansion of the skate park. The City should also study the possibility of providing another facility on the west side. Professionally-designed skate parks (for skateboards and in-line skates) can offer challenges not available elsewhere, and may also reduce the traffic and abuse on paths, sidewalks, railings and walls that were never meant for such activity.



SOCCER

The popularity of soccer in Green Bay has leveled off from its meteoric rise but continues to be strong among the youth. Soccer has attracted many children who might otherwise not have played an organized summer sport, and has drawn some players from tee-ball, baseball and softball.

Green Bay provides fields for most of the high schools, the Green Bay Kickers Soccer Club (serving the west side of Green Bay), the Green Bay Strikers Soccer Club (serving the east side) and the regional select team (higher-skilled players from the older age groups). Each high school has a boys and girls varsity and junior varsity team but only East High has a soccer field. The soccer clubs use fields in Green Bay and several nearby communities for a summer program that runs from May through July and September through early October. There are currently 200 adult participants and 500 children participating in soccer in Green Bay.

Green Bay and its neighboring communities do not have a sufficient number of soccer fields for existing demand even though there are now 36 fields in Green Bay (plus 16 owned by the schools) compared to 23 in 1995 which exceeds the number suggested by the Facilities Development Standards. However, the fields vary in size with most being smaller than the suggested standard size. The west side of the City is especially under served. Due to the insufficient number of fields, some games are held at dusk, making it difficult to play. No fields are currently lighted. Lighting could expand the use of some fields but it is costly. There are currently limited opportunities in Green Bay for soccer tournaments because of a lack of facilities with multiple fields.

The condition of most of the fields in Green Bay is poor because of their heavy use. Problems include bare spots, ruts, mud and non-uniform dimensions. The turf problems are caused by the fact that none of the fields can be rested. Lighting of fields could cause even more problems with overuse. The City should explore the potential for at least one artificial turf soccer field, which may alleviate the overuse of some fields.

The greatest problem with siting new soccer fields is finding flat open areas of adequate size. The staff should continue to monitor demands and quantify the number of fields needed in the service areas, and then update this plan with those findings.

The Arnie Wolff Sports Complex on the far east side is currently being developed to accommodate a 6-field soccer complex with parking lot. Construction is underway; 4 fields and the parking lot are completed. The remaining two fields and a concession stand with restrooms will be added in the near

future. Additional east side multi-field soccer opportunities include D6 north or the proposed east side high school.

Since the soccer clubs operate across municipal boundaries and, thus, the youth demand is regional, Green Bay will work with its neighbors to create more fields in all communities and improve the quality of those it already has. It will probably be easier to find space for new fields in the outlying municipalities, and it is believed that Green Bay is ahead of its neighbors in terms of the number of fields per 1,000 population.

SPLASH PADS / WADING POOLS

Splash pads are quickly becoming a very popular attraction to neighborhoods. They are fairly inexpensive to construct when compared to a wading pool or aquatic center. More importantly, very little maintenance is required once in place and no supervision is required.

There are currently 8 splash pads located within the City. Three splash pads are located on the near east side of town, three are located on the near west side of town, one is located at Red Smith Park on the far-east side and one is located downtown on CityDeck. Many additional neighborhoods are requesting splash pads and one is currently being planned for Tank Park on the near west side. The City should continue to investigate constructing additional splash pads on the east side and west side as demand increases.



The City currently has 5 wading pools and does not charge a fee. All 5 wading pools were constructed a minimum of 30 years ago and are starting to show their age. Although these facilities are extremely popular, wading pools are costly to maintain and complicated to manage because of their complex systems and extensive State requirements. Because the facilities are popular with families with young children, the City will study alternatives such as splash play areas when it comes time for replacement. Splash pads have fewer legal requirements and are simpler systems. The Tank Park wading pool will be converted into a splash pad in 2014.

SWIMMING

The Department oversees a total of 5 swimming pools, which include: one traditional box pool, two family aquatic centers and two indoor pools located within the schools. The indoor pools, located in the public schools, do not serve the existing demand for indoor year-round water activities. There is a demand for more water aerobics classes and swimming lessons. Also, the Green Bay Swim Club desires to rent more pool time and is searching for a year-round facility.



Currently, the 7-year attendance average for the outdoor pools is the following: Resch Aquatic Center - 525 swimmers/day (38,000 swimmers/summer); Joannes Aquatic Center - 400 swimmers/day (26,000 swimmers/summer) and Colburn Pool - 200 swimmers/day (10,500

swimmers/summer). The City also averages approximately 2,500 swimmers/summer during our swim team rentals and another 4,000 swimmers/summer during our swim lessons program.

Colburn Pool has nearly reached its anticipated lifespan. The City is currently working with the neighborhood, the Mayor and City Council to determine if the facility will be rebuilt or removed. National Recreation and Park Association standards recommend 1 pool for 20,000 people each with an approximate capacity of 1,000. This indicates that with the existing population of 104,000+ the City could support 5 family aquatic centers. However, that is overly optimistic.

TENNIS/PICKLEBALL

The City has consistently maintained tennis on a neighborhood basis with 56 courts on municipal property and another 15 on school lands for a total of 71 tennis courts. This comfortably exceeds the 52 courts suggested by the Facility Development Standards for a city of Green Bay's size.

Besides the casual tennis players there are 24 adult tennis league players and 180 children participating in tennis lessons. Three women's leagues, three men's leagues and an instructional program utilize the courts with 170 participants plus many high school activities. The City has recently renovated many of the tennis courts within the Park system.

Pickleball has recently been introduced to Green Bay. At Edison Park the City has striped 4 pickleball courts on 2 tennis courts. There are currently 150 participants in the pickleball league and it continues to grow. The City is currently researching the possibility of striping the other two tennis courts at Edison with 4 additional pickleball courts. This would give a total of 8 courts and would provide a tournament facility location.

City staff should carefully monitor the use of its tennis courts and consider phasing some out. As tennis courts need future major repair, the City should consider combining and centralizing its courts into fewer but larger complexes, as was done at all of the high schools within the City. This provides players a better likelihood of getting an open court without having to travel to several areas. The Master Plan for Perkins Park proposes to reduce the number of tennis courts from 6 to 2. The City will continue to renovate tennis courts on an as-needed basis.



TRAILS

Pedestrian/bicycle trails should be developed in an effort to connect park, open space areas and major activity nodes in the City. Priority should be given to areas adjacent to waterways. Over the last several years the City has been very active in the construction of multi-use trails along the Fox River, East River, Baird's Creek and the West Side Trail. The City will continue to create more trails as opportunities arise and eventually link all three trails into one comprehensive trail system that will also connect to the adjacent communities. See **Map 3**, The City Trail Map, for detailed recommendations.

The City currently has funding to expand the West Side Trail from Military to Bond Street. The ultimate goal is to connect the West Side Trail to the Mountain Bay Trail in Howard and the Fox River Trail on the east side of the Fox River. These connections will be difficult to make and it will take many years of planning and significant funding to realize this goal.

Over the next 5 years the City will continue efforts to connect the East River Trail to the Fox River Trail and Baird Creek Trail. Once this one-mile missing link trail connection is built there will be over 40 miles of continuous trails all linking together in Green Bay.

A trail should be developed connecting the Metro Boat Launch, Wildlife Sanctuary, UWGB, and Bay Beach along with linkages south to other major trails in the City. Sections of this trail are already in place. The City is also considering a proposed multi-use trail along University Avenue from Bader Street to UWGB. Park staff will work closely with the Public Works Department and the Planning Department to incorporate these trail connections into road reconstruction projects whenever possible.

D. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC PARKS, NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS AND GREENWAYS

MINI-PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMIRAL FLATLEY PARK

General Information:

- This park (0.75 acres) was recently relocated to the current location along the Fox River. Amenities within the new park include a bronze sculpture of Admiral Flatley, a gazebo, a memorial obelisk, and several tables with seating.

Proposed Activities:

- Maintain continuity between park and adjacent developments.
- Preserve as much open space as possible.
- Continue to work with donor group to add amenities as needed.

(HENRY S.) ATKINSON PARK

General Information:

- Mini-park (0.99 acres) consisting of playground, open space and stone perimeter wall. This park is adjacent to a school.

Proposed Activities:

- Rebuild historic stone wall as funding becomes available.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Replace playground.

BRISK PARK

General Information:

- Small mini-park (0.30 acres) consisting of only a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

ASTOR PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (8.30 acres) located within historic district. Amenities include one softball/little league field, three tennis courts, one basketball court, ice rink, playground, shelter, wading pool and a semi-formal perennial garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace wading pool with splash pad.

-
- Replace shelter.
 - Coordinate with Neighborhood Association on long-term maintenance of flower beds.
 - Improve ball field drainage.
 - Add ornamental lighting.
 - Replace some asphalt walks.
 - Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

BADGER PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (5.67 acres). Amenities include one softball/little league field, one basketball court, playground and natural areas with trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to keep and maintain the natural areas and trails.
- Add ADA accessible walk to playground.
- Renovate ball field, improve ball field drainage and replace infield mix.

BAIRD PLACE

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.75 acres). The primary park use is to serve as a travel corridor from the neighborhoods to the adjacent hospital. The park is occasionally used for special events. Amenities include mature trees, flower beds and lit walkways through the park.

Proposed Activities:

- Maintain park as necessary.
- Plant replacement trees as aging trees are removed.

BAY VIEW PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.21 acres). Amenities include one softball/little league field, park shelter, playground and a splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace bleachers.
- Replace basketball court paving.
- Replace damaged perimeter sidewalk.

D6 SOUTH PARK

General Information:

- This 22.47-acre park will at some point be developed as a neighborhood park. Currently the majority of this site is rented out as farmland. There are 3.6 acres of woodland on the far west end of the park that will remain natural. This property is adjacent to property owned by the School District proposed as a future high school.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop master plan.
- Coordinate athletic field court development with school need.
- The first developments typically include parking, playgrounds, ball diamonds and soccer fields.

EAST RIVER EMILIE PARK

General Information:

-
- Large neighborhood park (23.58 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two small soccer fields, a multi-use trail following the river's edge along with expansive mowed turf areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Mowed turf areas are underutilized; staff to research alternative uses.
- Expanding existing cul-de-sac with shoulder parking into a traditional parking lot.
- Improve drainage within the turf areas.

EAST RIVER (GEORGE J.) MEYER PARK

General Information:

- Medium sized neighborhood park (10.11 acres). Amenities include a playground, mature trees, a memorial and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Seek opportunities for park enhancement.
- Improve the trail crossing on Mason Street.

EAST RIVER OPTIMIST PARK

General Information:

- Medium size neighborhood park (9.14 acres) consisting of two softball/Little League fields, a parking lot and a multi-use trail along the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with donor group to coordinate the installation of a concession stand with restrooms and continue to coordinate future projects with Optimist Club.
- Purchase additional property west of the parking lot for park expansion.
- Create a master plan for the entire park.
- Expand parking.

EAST RIVER VAN BEAVER PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (44.23 acres) situated along the east bank of the East River. Amenities include one baseball field, one softball/Little League field, one basketball court, practice soccer area, playground, shelter, Forestry Division tree nursery and a multi-use trail following the river's edge.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace playground and install ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Relocate softball/little league field 1 and convert it to a baseball field.
- Secure funding to renovate and relocate ball field 2. Provide sports lighting for both ball fields.
- Develop a master plan for the park.
- Install a parking lot.
- Research the possibility of adding a pedestrian foot bridge across the East River in the vicinity of Debra Lane to Grignon Street.

EASTMAN PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.75 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, double basketball court, playground and splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop east end of park.
- Improve park drainage.
- Renovate the ball field.

EIGHTH STREET PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (1.97 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, playground, shelter and a community garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace playground and install ADA-accessible walk from shelter.
- Renovate or replace the shelter.
- Add security lighting within the park.
- Explore the possibility of expanding or improving the community garden; This may include ADA access, a parking area, raised beds, etc.

FARLIN PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (11.39 acres). Amenities include a medium-sized soccer field, practice ball field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter and splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Re-stain the splash pad concrete.
- Renovate the shelter
- Research potential alternate use in the hillock area.

FIREMAN'S PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (13.72 acres). Amenities include a popular sledding hill, one softball/Little League field, one basketball court, a playground and nature trails leading to the adjacent Beaver Dam Creek Greenway. The park also shares restrooms and a park shelter room with the adjacent fire station.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace basketball court.
- Replace playground and install an ADA-accessible walk to the playground.
- Research feasibility of adding tow ropes on sledding hill.
- Research adding more winter facilities to the park.

(TED) FRITSCH PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (20.98 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, ice rink and nature trails leading to the adjacent Lacount Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Connect to sanitary sewer.
- Repave asphalt around the shelter.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Improve the trail system.
- Preserve natural areas.
- Create linkage to neighborhoods to the west by installing a pedestrian bridge, crossing the ravine in greenway.

(JOSEPH JR.) GAGNON PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (5.28 acres) consisting of one softball/Little League field, a parking lot and a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate ball field.
- Replace playground and install ADA accessible walk to playground.

HE-NIS-RA PARK**General Information:**

- Large neighborhood park (54.92 acres) consisting of expansive natural areas with developed trails throughout. He-Nis-Ra Park is located adjacent to King Elementary School and Lombardi Middle School and shares facilities with the schools. Amenities within the park include a heavily-wooded forest, open prairie area, playground, open shelter, nature trails and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Protect native woodlands and wetlands.
- Add basketball court.
- Evaluate the use of the old Porlier School, either renovate building or demolish and construct a new park shelter.
- Extend trail system into the south wetland areas.
- Expand parking along West Point.
- Add parking lot in the prairie area to accommodate open shelter and nature trails.

KENNEDY PARK**General Information:**

- Small neighborhood park (7.00 acres). Amenities include one soccer field, one practice ball field, one basketball court, playground, shelter and ice skating.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate shelter.
- Replace playground.

LAKESIDE PLACE**General Information:**

- Small neighborhood park (2.61 acres) consisting of shelter, playground, one basketball court and open space. The park is segmented into three separate blocks so it feels even smaller than it really is.

Proposed Activities:

- Research possible acquisition of all properties necessary to combine all three segments into one park location and remove the through roads.
- Renovate or replace the shelter.

MARQUETTE PARK**General Information:**

- Medium sized Neighborhood Park (7.90 acres). Amenities include two soccer fields, two practice ball fields, three tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter and a wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace wading pool with splash pad.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

MATHER HEIGHTS PARK**General Information:**

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- Small neighborhood park (5.93 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one basketball court, one small soccer field, playground, shelter and a wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace aging wading pool with splash pad when the pool fails.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

(CHRISTA) McAULIFFE PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (38.49 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one football field, one soccer field, one basketball court, shelter, playground, ice rink and parking lot. The park contains large natural areas and a nature trail system connecting to the adjacent Baird Creek Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Connect this park with a multi-use trail to the existing Baird Creek Trail.
- Install a storm water pond/wetland to help control erosion along the steep slopes within the greenway.
- Construct two tennis courts.

(JOHN) MUIR PARK

General Information:

- Large neighborhood park (21.93 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, ice rink and parking lot. The park also contains a large natural wooded area with informal trails.

Proposed Activities:

- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Replace the paving around the shelter and parking lot.
- Improve the plaza areas between the parking lot and shelter.
- Work with Little League to continue to improve the ball diamonds.

MURPHY PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (13.82 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, shelter, wooded area with mature trees and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Create a master plan to address the long-term use of the northeast corner.
- Replace parking lot.

NAVARINO PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (3.94 acres). The original park west of Jackson Street is 0.68 acres. The new expanded park located east of Jackson Street is 3.26 acres. The west park only has a playground and the east park is currently undeveloped.

Proposed Activities:

- Relocate the playground to the new park east of Jackson Street.
- Sell the west park property for residential redevelopment after the playground is removed.

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- Begin development of the expanded park east of Jackson Street. Projects already funded for 2014 include burying the above-ground utilities, relocating the playground and installing some of the interior park walkways.
 - The City will actively seek funding to continue other developments shown in the master plan. This may include an open shelter, splash pad, children's garden or a park shelter with restrooms.

SAINT JAMES PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.27 acres). Amenities include a band shell, ½ basketball court, shelter with restrooms and a playground. The City Band plays weekly concerts here.

Proposed Activities:

- Remove concrete pad in southeast corner.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Research permanent seating for bandshell.
- Replace overgrown landscaping as necessary.

SAINT JOHN'S PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (1.37 acres) consisting of park shelter, basketball court, playground, and a practice ball field/open space area.

Proposed Activities:

- Install walk through the center of the park connecting the park shelter to Martin Street.
- Replace playground.

SAINT PHILIP PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (4.99 acres) consisting of one soccer/football field, playground, shelter and a parking lot. The City currently leases the park property from the adjacent landowner.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with church to secure long-term lease of property.
- Work with user groups to continue to improve the park.

SEYMOUR PARK

General Information:

- Medium neighborhood park (10.39 acres). Amenities include one basketball court, one softball/Little League field, two playgrounds, shelter, open shelter, splash pad, community garden and edible landscape garden. There is an active park gardening program for neighborhood children.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the purchase of the south railroad yard for park expansion.
- Repave the parking lot.
- Replace playground; consider downsizing to one playground.

VT PRIDE PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.19 acres) consisting of a playground and shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Update master plan to incorporate the recently-acquired parcels.

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- Install multi-use walk with lighting to the Kroc Center.
 - Install walkway to playground per ADA requirements.
 - Renovate or replace shelter.

WHITNEY PARK

General Information:

- Small neighborhood park (2.64 acres) consisting of parking, playground, shelter and ½ basketball court.

Proposed Activities:

- Shelter renovation.

PARK/SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

(HENRY S.) BAIRD PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (20.02 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, one practice ball field, one football field, two playgrounds, one basketball court, four tennis courts, and two parking lots. Within the school building there is a shelter room available for park use in the summer months.

Proposed Activities:

- Remove sand volleyball.
- Research trail access to Baird Creek Greenway.
- Delineate existing trails.
- If deemed feasible, coordinate with Public Works to install a storm water pond facility in the adjacent greenway.
- Replace playground and add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

BEAUMONT PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (8.82 acres). Amenities include two softball/Little League fields, two tennis courts, shelter, playground, ice rink and a parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Renovate shelter; consider adding an open shelter wing.
- One-half of the playground was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Add ADA-accessible walk from school and shelter to playground.
- Improve the two ball fields. Work may include but is not limited to new fencing, infield mix, drainage improvements, concrete dugout and bleacher areas, etc.

BEAVER DAM PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (22.83 acres) adjacent to MacArthur School. Amenities include three softball/little league fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, playground, open shelter, ice hockey, ice rink and parking lot.

Proposed Activities:

- Ball field #2 is currently being renovated. The field will be open to public use in the fall of 2014.
- Create a softball/Little League complex by relocating ball field #1 and installing a central concession stand with restrooms. Provide lighting for all three ball fields.

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- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.

CHAPPELL PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (11.40 acres). Amenities include two soccer fields, informal cricket field, playground and a community garden.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of park expansion.

DANZ PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Medium park/school site (22.61 acres). Amenities include one baseball field, one softball/Little League field, roller hockey court, park shelter and a playground. East of Danz Avenue there is also a tot playground, one soccer field, sledding hill, wetland stormwater pond and access to the Baird Creek Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Possibly renovate roller hockey to permanent regulation size court.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Pave entrance walk leading to the Baird Creek Trail.
- Work with the School District on a property trade to simplify the boundaries of the park and school properties.

EDISON PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (28.15 acres). Amenities include one baseball field, two softball/Little League fields, one track, one soccer field, two batting cages, four tennis/pickleball courts, one basketball court, ice hockey, ice skating, park shelter and a playground. Within the school building the indoor pool and a shelter room is available for park use.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walkway to playground and other park amenities.
- Replace basketball court.
- Update sports lighting for softball and hockey.
- Stripe four additional pickleball courts on existing tennis courts.
- Expansion of south shelter.

EISENHOWER PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (10.33 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, ice skating, park shelter and a playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Add walk to playground from shelter.
- Seek other opportunities for park enhancement.

FORT HOWARD PARK/JEFFERSON SCHOOL

General Information:

- Medium park/school site (19.09 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, one football field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, one splash pad, park shelter and a playground. This park/school site is adjacent to the Park Maintenance Facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Pave Park Maintenance Facility back parking lot.
- Renovate ball field. Improvements may include grading, seeding, drainage and new bleachers.
- Designate a use for the large open area in the southeast corner of the park.

FORT HOWARD PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (3.65 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field, one playground and a replica log cabin located on school property.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of park expansion.

LOMBARDI & MARTIN LUTHER KING PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (26.59 acres). Amenities include one practice softball field, two soccer fields, one track, two playgrounds and several parking lots. The Park/School site has direct access to He-Nis-Ra Park's trails and natural areas. The original Porlier School is located along West Point Road. The structure has been abandoned for years.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Add basketball court.
- Evaluate the use of the old Porlier School: either renovate the building or demolish it and construct a new park shelter.
- Expand parking along West Point Road.

NICOLET PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (5.05 acres). Amenities include one practice ball field and one playground.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with the School District on a property trade to simplify the boundaries of the park and school properties.
- One half of the playground equipment was recently replaced. Replace the remaining playground equipment.

RED SMITH PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (37.48 acres). Amenities include one informal ball field, one football field, one soccer field, two tennis courts, one informal basketball court area, one open shelter, two playgrounds, one splash pad, ice hockey, ice skating and nature trails in wooded area. In addition, one shelter room is available within the school building for park use in the summer months.

Proposed Activities:

- Add central walk from parking lot to school.
- Add restrooms to open shelter.
- Install site lighting and sports lighting on the hockey rink.
- Explore the possibility of converting the existing practice ball field into a regulation softball/Little League field.

(ANNE) SULLIVAN PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

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- Small park/school site (9.91 acres). Amenities include one soccer field, one playground and direct access to the Baird Creek Trail and East River Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Widen walkway from school to playground.
- Add paved walk along East River to replace the dirt trail.
- Research expansion of ADA playground.

TANK PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Small park/school site (11.54 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two tennis courts, one basketball court, ice skating, one enclosed shelter, one historic open shelter, one wading pool, two tennis courts, open shelter, one playground and one wading pool.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace wading pool with splash pad.
- Renovate enclosed shelter.
- One-half of the playground was recently replaced; replace the remaining playground equipment.
- Work with the School District to either improve or find alternate use for under-utilized softball/Little League field located on School District property.

(LAURA INGALLS) WILDER PARK/SCHOOL

General Information:

- Large park/school site (31.76 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, four soccer fields, ice skating, one park shelter and one playground. The park has direct access to the Willow Creek Greenway.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of adding an open shelter to the existing park shelter.
- Develop nature trail. This effort should continue and possibly extend northward to Van Beek Road. If this trail is developed special consideration should be given to providing access to the pedestrian bridge at Robinson Avenue.
- Look into adding a cross-country ski trail to the park.
- Replace playground.

COMMUNITY PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

(ENOS) COLBURN PARK

General Information:

- Large community park (60.48 acres). Amenities include three Little League/softball fields, one baseball field, one football field, two tennis courts, two bocce ball courts, one basketball court, two park shelters, two playgrounds, one hockey rink, ice skating, natural wooded areas and a sledding hill. There is also one box pool with a bathhouse constructed in 1967.

Proposed Activities:

- The existing box pool is nearing anticipated life expectancy. There is currently a neighborhood effort to begin a fundraising effort to replace the pool. Staff will work with the neighborhood residents and the Mayor/City Council to determine if this is a feasible option. If the pool is not replaced staff will make a recommendation to convert the space to an alternate use.
- Repave Ninth Street parking lot.

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- Replace Fisk Street playground.
 - Add paved walk from Ninth Street parking lot to open shelter.
 - Work with leagues to continue to upgrade the ball fields.

D6 NORTH PARK

General Information:

- Future large community park (66.90 acres). The site is currently undeveloped due to the lack of residential development in the surrounding areas. Upon completion, the park will be adjacent to a proposed middle school.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop master plan.
- Parks Department to coordinate athletic field court development with the school needs.
- The first development to take place should include parking, playgrounds, simple ball diamonds and soccer fields.
- The next facilities to consider are usually shelter construction, lighted softball, baseball facilities and tennis courts.

(HIRAM C.) FISK PARK

General Information:

- Small community park (21.26 acres) adjacent to West High School. Amenities include one practice football field, one track, one school football field, seven tennis courts, two basketball courts, one enclosed shelter, one open shelter, three playground areas, greenhouse and garden area, one splash pad and one aquatic center. The majority of the park has been recently redeveloped.

Proposed Activities:

- Consider purchasing residential properties on west end for park expansion.
- Remove or replace the 13-plus year old playground.

JOANNES PARK

General Information:

- Medium community park (30.33 acres) adjacent to East High School. Amenities include one aquatic center, the Joannes Baseball Stadium utilized by the Bullfrogs Northwoods League baseball team, seven tennis courts, one basketball court, skatepark, police community center, three playground areas and one park shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Replace infield lighting at Joannes Stadium.
- Repave walks adjacent to Joannes Stadium.
- Install walk from southeast parking lot to high school.
- Add additional amenities to the Aquatic Center. Projects may include a climbing wall, lazy river or adding an additional water feature in "0" depth area.
- Add a few new skating features to the skate park; re-caulk the concrete joints.
- Work with the new owners of the Bullfrogs to add amenities and improve the Joannes Baseball Stadium.

PERKINS PARK

General Information:

- Large community park (59.14 acres). Amenities include four softball/Little League fields, one baseball field, one football field, six tennis courts, one basketball court, one hockey rink, ice skating, one park shelter, playground, disc golf course, and a large wooded area along the east end of the park.

Proposed Activities:

- Relocate and expand parking on Bond Street.
- Repave the parking lot on Fisk Street.
- Relocate and renovate three softball/Little League fields to create a tournament facility, including centralized concession stand with restrooms.
- Remove six tennis courts and relocate two new tennis courts to a more appropriate location.
- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Research installation of splash pad and an open shelter.

PREBLE PARK

General Information:

- Small community park (14.12 acres). Amenities include one softball/Little League field, two soccer fields, one basketball court, one park shelter, playground, large mature trees and an east side park shop.

Proposed Activities:

- Add ADA-accessible walk to playground.
- Add walk from playground to park shelter.
- Repave Skyline Boulevard parking lot and drives.
- Stabilize the northern steep slope along Hillside Lane.

LARGE URBAN PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

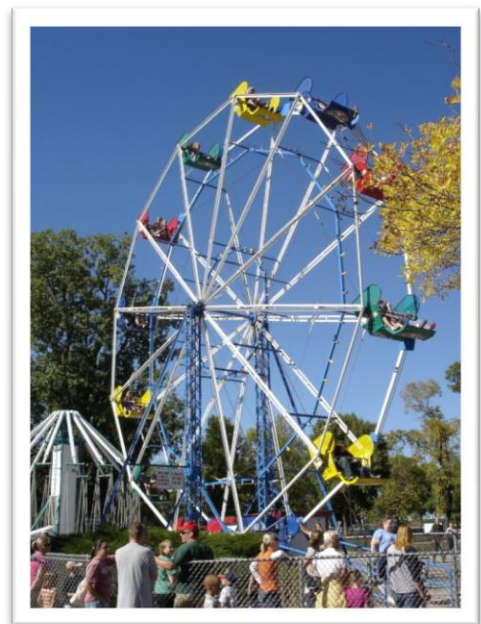
BAY BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

General Information:

- Bay Beach Amusement Park (73.06 acres) is one of the few remaining municipal owned amusement parks in the country. The park was established in 1892 and is the ninth oldest amusement park in the United States. Bay Beach has found its niche in providing traditional, historic amusement rides affordable to the general public. Bay Beach has activities such as amusement rides, play equipment, picnic facilities, rentable shelters, wading pool, gift shop, food services, and a pavilion with a ballroom.

Proposed Activities:

- Work with Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park to implement the proposed Phase 1 developments of the master plan.
- Phase 1A projects will include the installation of a great lawn shelter with walks, relocation of train ride, giant slide modifications, a new west end concession stand, and a new west end parking lot.
- Phase 1B projects will include the installation of a giant ferris wheel, a destination playground and central circulation spine.
- Phase 1C projects will include the installation of a shoreline boardwalk, a dragon kiddie coaster, a jumping star tot ride and an operations/office building.
- Phase 1D projects will include adding 1-2 new rides and renovations to the main pavilion to construct a new restaurant.
- Phase 1E projects will include the installation



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- of an outdoor dining terrace on the west end of the pavilion and an ice rink.
 - Beyond the Phase 1 improvements staff will continue to seek funding to complete some of the Phase 2 projects as opportunities arise. Pavilion renovations may include dance hall renovations, roof replacement and replacement of all electrical. Site improvements may include the creation of a swimming beach, a new pier in the Bay, repaving and expanding the main parking lot, and renovating all of the bathrooms adjacent to the rentable shelters.
 - Coordinate with Brown County to develop a master plan for the future use of Renard Isle.

SPORTS COMPLEX PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

ARNIE WOLFF SPORTS COMPLEX

General Information:

- This 38.42-acre facility sits atop a former fill site and is currently being converted to a six-field soccer complex.

Proposed Activities:

- Complete grading and seeding of the last two soccer fields.
- Work with donor group to complete the installation of a concession stand with restrooms.
- Install an ADA-accessible gravel walk around the perimeter of the soccer fields.
- Construct secondary overflow parking lot near the entrance.
- Install playground equipment adjacent to the proposed concession stand.
- Future field improvements to the primary soccer field may include irrigation and permanent seating areas.

FINGER ROAD BALL FIELD COMPLEX

General Information:

- This 25.81-acre facility consists of a tournament softball/Little League complex containing four fields constructed on top of the clay cap of an abandoned fill site.

Proposed Activities:

- Coordinate with the Department of Public Works to complete final as-built construction plans.
- Work with the DNR to determine what if any future developments will be allowed to be constructed. Desired projects include a large storage shed, a concession stand, restrooms and sports lighting.

SPECIAL USE PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

BAY BEACH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

General Information:

- The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary is Green Bay's largest city park. With over 500 acres of land, 55 acres of lagoons, scenic waterfall, outdoor amphitheater, outdoor raptor theater and 6.2 miles of hiking and skiing trails.

- **The Nature Education Center** offers hands-on educational exhibits (walk through diorama with otter slide, walk in live bee tree, and a crawl through burrow for families), resource library, classrooms, meeting rooms, full kitchen, auditorium and a gift shop.



- **The Observation Building** sells corn for waterfowl feeding, animal nursery viewing window, an animal care and rehabilitation center. The Resch Conservation Wing exhibits include live snakes, bats; a forest, field, beach songbird aviary, and a 700-gallon native fish aquarium.
- **The Raptor Trail** has outdoor exhibit viewing of waterfowl, cranes, native hawks, falcons, owls, eagles and vultures. All exhibits are handicap accessible.
- **The Habi-Trek Trail** is an accessible hard surfaced path that meanders from the Nature Center to the Woodland Building with indoor nocturnal exhibits of turtles, flying squirrels, mice, snakes and mink. Outdoor habitats include otter viewing tank/grotto, fisher, bobcat and cougar canyon, a pack of timber wolves, a raven aviary and a crow/porcupine exhibit.
- A Grassland Community featuring white-tailed deer, coyotes, turkeys, sandhill cranes, a three-tier observation tower and eco-learning stations.
- **OAK Learning Center (Outdoor Adventures for Kids)** is a 4-year old nature-based kindergarten. The students are taught by a licensed teacher and a naturalist. They spend the majority of their school day outdoors while they are prepared academically, physically and emotionally for kindergarten.
- **Manger Lagoon** is a public fishing area for youth 15 years and younger and handicapped individuals of all ages. There is an informational kiosk, fishing docks and chimney swift nesting tower.
- **Resch Falls & Kress Trail** are the centerpiece of the lagoon renovation project.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a 5-year strategic plan.
- Develop a new master plan for the entire facility to guide improvements, additions and renovations including refuge habitat and wildlife management areas.

Facility goals for the next five years include:

- Replace aging equipment and materials in buildings (e.g. heat pumps and carpeting in the 21- year old Nature Center).
- Fine tuning of the physical site including plant material replacement around the core buildings.
- Pave residence parking lot.
- Investigate the design, fabrication and installation of new educational exhibits utilizing touch screen technology.
- Continue to expand the popular “Butterfly Unit” offered to area schools (part of the Einstein Project hands-on unit) by investigating the construction of a butterfly house to involve home school families and the general public.

- Work with an area technical college to design improvements and provide plans to upgrade the popular public fishing area.
- Work with the Astronomy Club to construct an observatory to mount the Sanctuary telescope in on Danz Avenue site for public astronomy programs.
- Investigate the development possibility for an outdoor Raptor Theater program facility to be enclosed to allow charging an entrance fee to offset operation costs.
- Explore the possibility of putting an addition on the Nature Center to include: bird-carving diorama exhibits depicting species and seasonal changes, informal group meeting/recreation program support space (large fireplace – skier warm up, etc.) and additional classrooms.
- Explore the feasibility of an addition to the Animal Care Center to accommodate the increase in rehabilitation admissions.
- Explore the addition of a new larger cougar habitat exhibit. Convert existing cougar exhibit into a lynx exhibit.
- Design, fabricate and install the final master plan signage phase for nature trail interpretive graphics.
- Upgrade/retrofit our facilities to meet accessibility standards.



Wildlife refuge management projects will include:

- Develop and continue to implement long-term management strategy for invasive plant species, including biological control release research site and grant writing to effect management practices.
- Develop experimental native plant restoration plots and deer enclosure fencing on acreage east of Danz Avenue.
- Develop a water management plan for monitoring and manipulating the water levels (wells, waterfalls, aeration pumps, that takes seasons, precipitation, time of day, temperatures, oxygen readings, and electrical operation cost parameters into consideration) for the lagoons.

CITYDECK

General Information:

- This 1.79-acre special use park is located in the heart of Green Bay's downtown along the east bank of the Fox River. Amenities include several overlook decks, synthetic ice rink, docking, rentable plaza spaces, outdoor seating, a river walk and a splash pad.

Proposed Activities:

- Expand the synthetic ice rink. Purchase a platform to level the skating surface.
- Construct the proposed overlook



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- platform adjacent to Walnut Street Bridge.
 - Continue to promote this facility for downtown events.

GREEN BAY METRO BOAT LAUNCH

General Information:

- This 12.95-acre facility is the only City-owned public boat launch facility. Amenities include a large parking lot, a comfort station with restrooms and 10 boat launch slips.

Proposed Activities:

- Continued dock improvements.
- Replace aging parking lot paving and landscaping as necessary.
- Secure funding for additional amenities, which may include a fishing pier, picnic area and an overlook structure.
- Explore the possibility of linking this property to Bay Beach Amusement Park with a paved, multi-use trail.
- The land is owned by the Green Bay Metro Sewage District and leased on a short-term basis to the City. If at all possible, this land should be purchased or a long-term lease (in lieu of existing short-term) established in order to protect the public investment.
- Work with the Green Bay Metro Sewage District to improve and promote the existing shelter as a meeting location for various organizations.

JACKSON SQUARE

General Information:

- Small 1.37-acre special use park consisting of walkways, stone wall and flower beds. This park is heavily used one day per week in the summer months for afternoon music in the park events.

Proposed Activities:

- Move overhead wires underground.
- Improve landscape beds.
- Purchase new tables and benches for music in the park.

JOLIET PARK

General Information:

- This 5.25-acre special use park consists of Bay frontage, a gravel drive and natural areas.

Proposed Activities:

- Pave the entrance drive.
- Encourage fishing. Representatives of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have indicated that this site is one of the top fishing spots in the region.
- Maintain natural areas.

LEICHT MEMORIAL PARK

- This 7.94-acre special use park is primarily used for downtown festivals and activities. Amenities include dock wall for large vessels, floating transient docks, stage, future sculpture walk, *Flags of Diversity* display, statue and parking.

Proposed Activities:

- Research the purchase of the north leased area.
- Secure funds for additional features such as a rentable open shelter with restrooms,



fountain area, central courtyard area, interpretive historic display, a second stage area and additional landscaping.

- Promote temporary docking location for cruise ships.
- Revise the master plan to include the currently leased north property if purchased.

RIVERVIEW PLACE

General Information:

- Small 0.60-acre park designated as an informal boat launch for canoes and kayaks.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the feasibility of park expansion. This may include property purchase, installation of a parking lot and formal boat launch facility.

TRIANGLE HILL

General Information:

- This 31.29-acre special use facility consists of a ski hill, tubing hill, disk golf course and a rentable shelter.

Proposed Activities:

- Repair erosion issues around the disc golf course tees and baskets.
- Repair erosion issues down the main tubing tow rope area.
- Purchase new tow rope that will accommodate new tubes with clips.
- Continue to coordinate with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation on prairie restoration efforts in the area.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK

General Information:

- Small special use park (0.88 acres) consisting of a memorial plaza dedicated to veterans. The park is directly adjacent to the west bank of the Fox River, the Neville Museum, Leicht Memorial Park and a river walk.

Proposed Activities:

- Repair or replace brick paver walk.
- Create a master plan to determine the long-term vision of the shoreline and park. The master plan should also address the linkage to the Neville Museum and to the shopping district on Broadway Avenue.
- Add underpass to Leicht Memorial Park.
- Review and rejuvenate landscaping.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

KEN EUERS NATURE AREA

General Information:

- This large natural resource area consists of 116.89 acres. This area is comprised of a natural area converted from a former landfill as well as a linear greenway along the Bay, parking and nature trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Complete trail extensions to Bay Port Drive, as well the construction of overlooks along the water edge.
- Provide additional environmental and trail signage.
- Consider expanding the public nature area onto the east landfill site if and when it becomes available.

- Continue to work with the Fish and Wildlife Department on the removal of invasive plant species along the Bay.
- Pave existing nature trails and clear some vegetation along the trail.

GREENWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

BAIRD CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- Baird Creek Greenway is presently 492.02 acres. There is a combination of facilities including cross country ski trails, mountain bike trails, a multi-use trail, parking areas, nature trails, and a shelter/warming facility.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue property acquisition prior to development occurring.
- Continue the multi-use trail from Baird Creek Road to Christa McAuliffe Park. Hire a consultant to complete an engineering analysis of the proposed route.
- Continue informal trail development and install boardwalks where necessary.
- Work with mountain bike group to continue maintenance of the existing mountain bike trails and expand the trails as opportunities arise.
- Address excessive erosion along the shoreline.
- Efforts should continue to expand the restoration efforts and find other opportunities for prairie development.
- The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the Baird Creek Greenway, recently completed the Baird Creek Greenway Master Plan. The City will work closely with the Foundation to ensure that all future development corresponds with the master plan objectives.
- Continue to work with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation to secure funding for acquisition, development and maintenance projects. The City will also work with the group to manage volunteers on various initiatives.



BARINA CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- Small (15.68-acre) drainage corridor and storm water retention area with gravel walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/ waterway.

BEAVER DAM CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- Small narrow drainage way (51.88 acres) on the west side of Green Bay. Many informal trails have been created throughout the greenway. There is one paved trail connecting Stoneybrook Lane to Beaver Dam Drive.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.
- Replace the paved trail when funding becomes available.

EAST RIVER GREENWAY - NORTH TRAIL

General Information:

- The majority of the East River Greenway within the City limits is broken up into smaller sections and classified as various neighborhood parks. The North Trail section is the only section not defined as a neighborhood park. This 4.17-acre greenway consists of several smaller parcels recently acquired for the expansion of the East River Trail.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to purchase the necessary parcels to complete the East River Trail connection.
- Seek grant funding opportunities for construction of the trail and the purchase of the remaining properties.
- Work with the East River Trail committee to implement a fundraising campaign.
- Complete shoreline restoration as necessary.
- Develop a canoe/kayak launch along trail route after the property is acquired.

ELLIS CREEK GREENWAY SOUTH BRANCH

General Information:

- Small drainage corridor and storm water retention area with gravel walks.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.

FOX RIVER GREENWAY EAST BANK

General Information:

- This 15.28-acre greenway is located in the heart of Green Bay's downtown. The majority of the Fox River east bank has been redeveloped over the last 10 years. Recent developments include the Children's Museum, Hagemeister Park, Riverfront Lofts, St. Brendan's Inn, Johnson Bank and Nicolet Bank. The City has worked closely with these developers to ensure that the City maintained sufficient greenway corridors with necessary linkages to businesses and the rest of the downtown. The Fox River State Trail is located within this greenway and is one of the most heavily-used trails in the state. A sculpture walk was recently added along the trail in the downtown area.

Proposed Activities:

- Support adjacent redevelopment of downtown properties that encourage active participation to the greenway.
- Consider the purchase of the shoreline property between Porlier Street and Mason Street.
- Expand the sculpture walk as funding becomes available.
- Encourage and seek out alternate recreational opportunities.
- Develop and promote a more structured canoe/kayak launch near Porlier Street.



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- Research options to cross the Fox River with a multi-use trail to connect the Fox River Trail to the West Side Trail.
 - Widen and replace the Fox River Trail from Main Street to Monroe Avenue.
 - Research the possibility of an underpass under Monroe Avenue to provide a safe connection from the Fox River Trail to the East River Trail.

FOX RIVER GREENWAY WEST BANK

General Information:

- The 2.20-acre Fox River West Bank Greenway is located in the heart of downtown Green Bay. The City currently owns property along the bank from Walnut Street to Dousman Street. This greenway is adjacent to Veteran's Memorial Park, the Neville Museum and Leicht Memorial Park. This narrow strip of shoreline property consists of a riprap edge, a brick river walk, a firefighter's memorial and the 9-11 memorial.

Proposed Activities:

- Develop a master plan that addresses the potential re-design of Veteran's Memorial Park, a new riverfront walkway, shoreline treatments, along with connections to the Broadway Shopping District, the Neville Museum and Leicht Memorial Park.
- Secure funding to either repair or remove the 9-11 Memorial.
- Actively pursue the development of the City-owned brownfield site north of Mason Street.

HE-NIS-RA GREENWAY

General Information:

- Large 64.18-acre drainage corridor and natural area south of He-Nis-Ra Park.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.

HUTCHINSON BOG

General Information:

- This is a 9.63-acre wetland area recently donated to the City adjacent to a new subdivision development. There is very little potential for recreational activities other than a passive trail system.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.

LACOUNT CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This 10.72-acre small drainage way is located just west of Ted Fritsch Park. Due to the steep topography and mature vegetation this property has minimal recreational potential other than trail use.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.
- Connect the adjacent neighborhood to Ted Fritsch Park with an access bridge crossing Lacount Creek.

MAHON CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

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- With a direct access to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Arboretum Trail, this 24.61-acre parcel is connected to one of the most natural largely undisturbed areas to be found along the Bay Shore.

Proposed Activities:

- Explore the possibility of adding a trail link under Highway 54-57 to the University campus.
- When feasible, purchase additional property to the south to extend the greenway through the entire drainage way and work with property owners to develop conservation easements when purchase is not possible.

NEWBERRY CONSERVANCY

General Information:

- 16.66-acre natural area immediately east of Preble High School.
- Small unnamed tributary stream.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.
- Utilize this site as a nature study area for the Preble students.

NICHOLSON CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This small 6.43-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential to the public other than those that live adjacent to the creek.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.

ONEIDA CREEK GREENWAY

General Information:

- This small 5.23-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential to the public other than those that live adjacent to the creek.

Proposed Activities:

- Continue to protect the natural vegetation/waterway and encourage nature trails when appropriate.

WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY NORTH BRANCH

General Information:

- This 60.23-acre greenway provides existing linkages to Wilder Park and NEW Lutheran High School, thus providing excellent public access opportunities.

Proposed Activities:

- A trail should be constructed and extend northward from Wilder Park to Van Beek Road. Consideration should be given to providing access to the Robinson Avenue pedestrian bridge.
- Protect the natural vegetation and waterway.

WILLOW CREEK GREENWAY SOUTH BRANCH

General Information:

- Situated within the I-43 Business Park, this 40.06-acre drainage way has minimal recreational potential other than informal trails.

Proposed Activities:

- Create a trail system through the greenway to provide recreational benefits for workers.

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- Work with Aurora Hospital to link their multi-use trail running to the informal trail system within the greenway.
 - Protect the natural vegetation and waterway.

E. NON-MUNICIPAL AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations pertain to recreational/open space projects, which are not owned or managed by the Green Bay Park, Recreation & Forestry Department.

GREEN BAY AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The school system and park system of Green Bay have a long history of cooperation over the years. This of course should continue in the future on jointly-used park/school facilities. Whenever feasible, new schools should continue to be built in conjunction with neighborhood park facilities. This avoids unnecessary expenditures and duplication of facilities and provides larger expanses of open space. More cooperation is needed, however, in developing recreational facilities in school sites not adjacent to parks.

ONEIDA NATION RESERVATION LANDS

The Oneida's Water Resources Report has proposed several water restoration projects throughout their open space conservancy system. This may involve acquiring property for conservancy or park use and developing that property for passive recreational trails and fishery management. Wherever possible the Oneidas and the City of Green Bay should develop their adjacent projects in a manner which will complement each other.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT SCENIC PATHWAY

Designate an open space corridor along Bay Settlement Road to serve as a link in a regional path system and to help preserve the scenic Niagara Escarpment. Coordinate City plans with University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Brown County Planning Commission, Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission and Town of Scott plans in an effort to implement this.

NORTHEAST BUSINESS PARK GREENWAY

Park staff will work with the Green Bay Planning Department to acquire greenway corridors as opportunities arise. The adopted TIF district for this area is seen as a major funding source for the construction and possible long-term maintenance of the trails.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

The Cofrin Arboretum currently contains 180 acres of various plant communities and wildlife habitats. There is a well-used multi-use trail around the perimeter of the UWGB campus which also provides public access to the Bay. This City should explore the possibility of connecting City trails to the popular UWGB trail. The Niagara Escarpment, a limestone outcrop, is a unique geologic and scenic resource. Part of the escarpment is found on University property (the eastern boundary of the University). The University has developed an observation tower as well as trails in the area. This green space is a valuable environmental site and should continue to be preserved in a natural state.

Mahon Park is currently an undeveloped mini-park. This three-acre site is now owned by the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay but may be used by the Park, Recreation and Forestry Department under an agreement with the University. The park is located adjacent to the University campus and Cofrin Arboretum. Active park development should be considered if the majority of the neighborhood residents request it, otherwise it will remain a passive use open space.

COOKE PARK

The site is owned by the City of Green Bay and leased/maintained by the National Railroad Museum. Although the City has ownership of the land the City does not manage the Park. The City should continue to support future efforts by the National Railroad Museum to expand and improve the museum.

F. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Green Bay is very similar to many other communities in Wisconsin in the fact that it is often times easier to secure funding to build new facilities than it is to maintain existing facilities. Historically it seems as though shelters, paving, athletic fields and landscaping have suffered the most through budget constraints. It is not only difficult to find adequate funding for materials and supplies, but it can be just as difficult to find the available staff to complete the work. Over the last 10 years the Green Bay Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has been very proactive in securing annual funding to begin renovating aging park facilities. This process should continue over the next 5 years. Whenever a new facility is proposed within the park system the City should analyze the current staffing levels and propose amendments if necessary.

SHELTERS

The Green Bay Parks Department currently maintains 16 open shelters without restrooms and 37 shelters with restrooms. Over the last 10 years, a considerable amount of shelter improvements have been completed in regards to ADA accessibility, restroom modifications and the installation of vandal resistant materials. Currently some shelters most in need of repair or replacement include the following: Astor, VT Pride, Eighth Street and Edison. New shelter buildings will be needed at Navarino, D6-North Park and D6-South Park. Open shelters are often being considered for some of our older parks as well as in our new park areas. This is



primarily due to the increasing picnic demand for public facilities in our urban parks. The City should continue to secure funding on an annual basis to keep the shelters current and in good condition.

PAVING

This category includes parking lots, roadways, walkways, trails and bridges. The Green Bay Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department maintains 48 parking lots. Many of these lots are in rough condition and are in need of total replacement. New lots are developed in new and expanding park areas and as demand dictates in older parks where there are inadequate parking facilities. Walkways in and adjacent to parks are also repaired on a regular basis. Several walkways are currently in need of total replacement. Over the next 5 years the City will also continue to develop and expand its trail system.

ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Approximately five years ago the Green Bay Parks Department began annual budgeting to correct the many years of deferred athletic field maintenance. Many fields need new fencing, player benches, bleachers, sports lighting, grading, drainage improvements, etc. Nearly all of the basketball courts and tennis courts have been recently updated. The City has recently dedicated a large amount of funding to improve the ball fields and create athletic field complexes. This process should continue over the next five years to encourage first class athletic fields in Green Bay.

PLANTING AND PLANT MAINTENANCE

Landscaping is ongoing in the park system in order to replace diseased, overgrown or inappropriate plant materials. Plant renovation does not mean extensive planting but rather, carefully thought out landscaping to accentuate spaces as well as provide shade and buffers. Most parks in the City could use some form of plantings to enhance existing spaces or create new passive areas. Another planting priority should be to establish and protect more natural areas. These areas are extremely valuable for passive recreation, environmental education, wildlife habitat, climate moderation, ground water



regeneration and control of stormwater runoff. With the increased awareness of non-point source pollution the Park Department should promote more unmowed areas within the parks. In addition the City should continue to promote the planting of native vegetation and prairie development. Due to shortage of funds, park staff is often times working with private groups within the community in an effort to plant and maintain the plant beds and native plantings throughout the City. The City has also been reducing the number of annual beds and relying more on perennial flowers and grasses in order to reduce labor and maintenance costs. All of these measures should continue.

URBAN FOREST

The Forestry Division of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department is responsible for maintaining the urban forest within all of the City's public lands including all of the trees within the parks and along city street right-of-ways. The Forestry Division conducts a regular schedule of mulching and pruning and monitors trees for signs of disease and decline to ensure trees do not pose a safety hazard. The Forestry Division regularly removes and replaces trees as needed. They also operate a tree nursery where all of the City trees are cared for until they are ready to plant. The Forestry Division should continue to be funded and staffed to ensure a well maintained urban forest for the many benefits it provides.

EMERALD ASH BORER

In July of 2009 the City identified an outbreak of the Emerald Ash Borer in the downtown area. Since that time the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Division has been very proactive in the development of a removal strategy to help postpone the damaging effects City-wide. The City cleared all of the ash trees within the discovered hotspot. With over 7,500 ash street trees in the City and countless numbers within the parks, it is anticipated that the Forestry Department will have to dedicate a large amount of time over the next 5 years to continue efforts to slow down the spread of this insect. A considerable amount of inspection, tree removal and tree replacement is scheduled over the next 5 years and beyond.

CHAPTER 6 – FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. OVERVIEW

The recommended improvements described in this plan will be phased in over time. The projects specified in Chapter 5 are a compiled list of all potential projects that could occur within the next five years. However, this list is much larger than the Parks Department could accomplish in this time frame. On a yearly basis City staff will work with the Mayor and City Council to select the highest priority projects within the City's means to accomplish and fund these projects accordingly.

At the first possible opportunity any property identified for purchase should be placed on the Official City Map to reserve the right for future purchase of the property. When any properties are purchased the City should always seek financial assistance to minimize the cost to the community. The Parks Department has identified priority property acquisitions and capital projects for the coming year or two as well as some long range initiatives that are being implemented. Some funding for these projects has been identified using various funding mechanisms.

B. FUNDING MECHANISMS

Direct City Funding

The City will continue to budget for projects through department budgets or secure bonding for the development of park and recreational facilities on a yearly basis as identified in priority plans. Additional dollars and/or dedicated lands for park development can be acquired through the land division and development process in expanding urban areas of the City.

When City land is subdivided in Urban Expansion Areas before final plat approval, the developer shall pay a parkland development fee, currently \$275 per dwelling unit or as specified in the *Green Bay Park, Recreation and Forestry Fee Schedule*. Developers may also negotiate dedication of land for park purposes in lieu of paying a fee as specified in Chapter 14-748 of the *Subdivision and Platting Codes*. There is no specific formula for the dedication of new parkland and this is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Grants

Grants often fund a major part of land acquisition and construction costs for large capital projects. The City will continue to pursue federal and state matching grants such as Stewardship Funding, Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, Acquisition of Development Rights Grants, Urban Green Space Program Grants, Urban Rivers Program Grants, Recreational Trails Act Grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund Program Grants, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grants, and Transportation Enhancement Program Grants through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The City's many planned trail projects are good candidates for these grants. Specialty grants from organizations such as KaBoom also present funding opportunities for more specialized projects such as playgrounds.

The Parks Department works with the City's Planning Department and Redevelopment Authority on an annual basis to obtain federally-funded Community Development Block Grants to help fund park projects in targeted low income areas.

User Fees and Concessions

Across the country user fees are gradually becoming a prevalent part of the public recreation funding scheme. At this time in Green Bay fees are assessed for such things as shelter and facility rentals, user fees, recreation classes, souvenirs, concessions, facility admissions and amusement park rides. Other fundraising opportunities also include things such as donor brick sales, memorial benches and plaques and on a limited basis. Naming rights provide another source of income. Alternate funding methods such as these should continue to be looked into and utilized whenever feasible.

Foundations and Volunteer Efforts

The City utilizes many partnerships to help fund and implement projects of various sizes within the parks. Foundations such as the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation (BCPF) have been instrumental in raising capital funds through donations and grants. The BCPF has helped fund the purchase of property to expand the Baird Creek Greenway.

The City has also been successful in partnering with local corporations such as the Green Bay Packers to fund the purchase of materials and equipment for playgrounds and to provide employee volunteers to assist with installation. Local construction and supply companies have also provided donations of materials and construction services. Many new playgrounds have been built through these partnerships. In addition, the Green Bay Area Public School District has partnered with the City on both development projects and recreational programming at all of the school locations.



Various community and special interest groups such as neighborhood associations, Optimist Clubs, church groups, biking organizations and Eagle Scouts have donated time and materials to help construct facilities within the parks and perform general maintenance. Concession stands, batting cages, mountain bike trails and disc golf courses are some of the park facilities that have been constructed with the help of these organizations.

The Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary

The Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary will continue to receive funding and support through the Friends of the Wildlife Sanctuary. Funds generated through events, fundraisers and various sales at the Wildlife Sanctuary are used to implement various projects and improvements at the Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Friends of Bay Beach Amusement Park

In 2012 in conjunction with an updated master plan, the City created a special revenue fund for Bay Beach Amusement Park. Bay Beach is now responsible to pay all of its operating expenses, but in return it is able to retain all of the revenue generated from the park instead of going back into the City's general fund. Therefore, monies generated at the park will stay in the park to pay for continued improvements. In addition, a Friends of Bay Beach group was formed with a mission of generating fundraising dollars specifically to fund various capital projects and help implement elements of the master plan over the next ten years. These changes have put the park in a good position to fund its master plan elements and continue expansion in the coming years.

MAP 2 - EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARKS, GREENWAYS AND SCHOOLS

MAP 3 - EXISTING AND PROPOSED TRAILS AND BIKE LANES

MAP 4 - PARK SERVICE AREAS

APPENDIX A – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The comments listed below are just a sampling of the public comments the City has received over the last five years. This is not intended to be an all inclusive list.

- Comments from Optimist group and Optimist Park neighbors regarding Optimist ball fields – would like new concessions stand with restrooms additional parking.
- Red Smith Neighborhood Association - Add lights at the Red Smith hockey rink. It is too dark in the park.
- Red Smith School Faculty – want to create environmental education trail/program in Red Smith Park woods.
- Comments from disc golf groups - Coordinate forestry work and tree planting at Perkins Disc Golf Course. Request for tee pads at Perkins disc golf course. Request to expand disc golf at Triangle Hill and put in tee pads on existing course.
- Eighth Street Park neighborhood residents – want new play equipment. Expand community garden to include gathering area.
- Colburn Park neighborhood residents – want to upgrade/replace pool.
- Wilder Park Neighborhood Association – want to put in community garden, request to put sand volleyball court back in, want walkway to sculpture.
- Starlite Neighborhood Association – request to put trail markers along section of East River Trail.
- Oak Grove Neighborhood Association - Want lookout/viewing area at East River and Baird Creek in Sullivan Park. Want asphalt trail from south parking lot in Sullivan Park to East River pedestrian bridge.
- Maple Arches Neighborhood Association – continue rebuilding historic wall sections; would like funding to complete project.
- MacArthur Heights Neighborhood Association – want tot play area on south side of MacArthur Elementary School (school district property).
- N.E.W.T. bike organization – continue working with Parks Department on upgrades to mountain biking trails (armor wet areas of trail and additional trail markers).
- Baird Creek Preservation Foundation – continue work on plant community restoration activities including prairie burns, clearing encroaching trees from prairie areas and wet meadows, and additional native plantings. Requested improved trail access from Whittier Road, work on extending Baird Creek Greenway trail east to Christa McAuliffe Park.
- Navarino Park neighbors – screen houses with vegetation from new park development.
- Navarino Neighborhood Association – Provide lighting in the new park. It is too dark.
- Cricket organization – would like a permanent cricket field.
- Skateboarders – requests to improve and expand Joannes Park Sk8 park facility.
- Snow bikers – want place to ride with groomed trails.

- Increased senior and teen programming.
- Adaptive playgrounds for individuals with special needs.
- Would like more sport complexes (soccer and baseball/softball).
- Lighted youth diamonds.

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- Need restrooms and concession stands at more facilities.
 - Improved Skatepark features at Joannes Skatepark
 - Would like to see improved bleachers at sport fields.